

CANADA

E! CANADA

FAMILY
DRAMA
HOW TO
SURVIVE A
HOLIDAY
MELTDOWN

DECEMBER 2015

KYLIE ★ JENNER

TALKS ABOUT DATING,
HER RELATIONSHIP
WITH CAITLYN
& THOSE LIPS!

85
HOLIDAY
GIFTS
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WANT TO
BUY FOR
YOURSELF

LUXE REDUX

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A FASHION
QUEEN, PARTY
LIKE A POP
STAR AND
SPARKLE
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THE NIGHT

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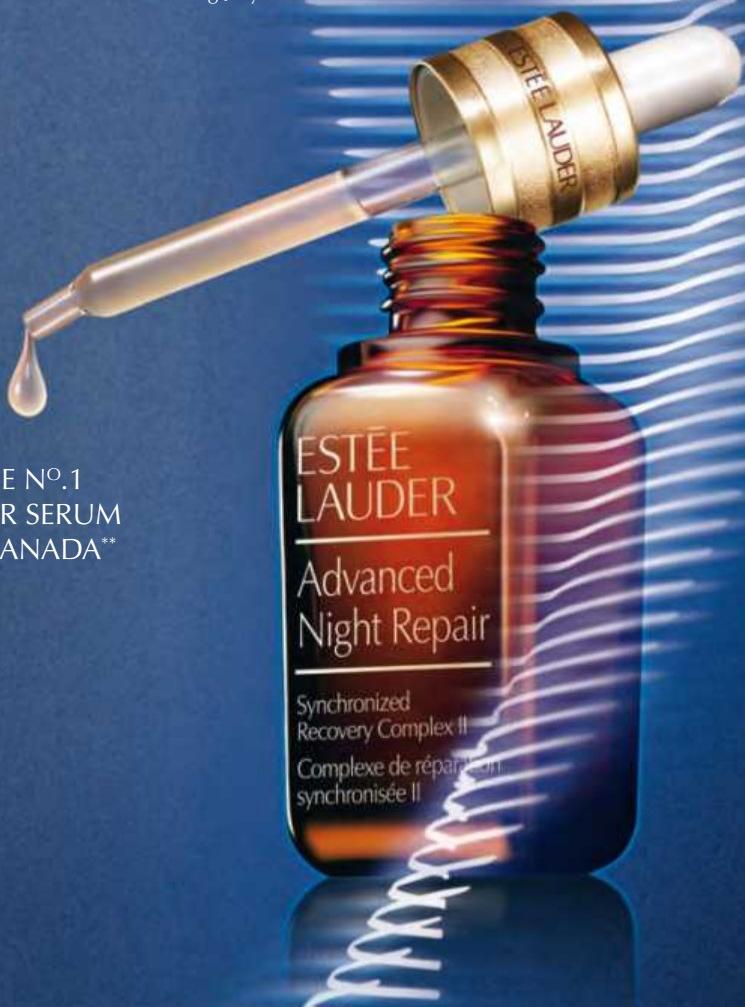
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A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair. She is looking directly at the camera with a soft expression. Her makeup is done in a classic style, featuring dark eyeliner and mascara. She is wearing a small, square stud earring. A man's face is partially visible in the upper right corner, shown in a dramatic, shadowed profile. The background is dark and moody.

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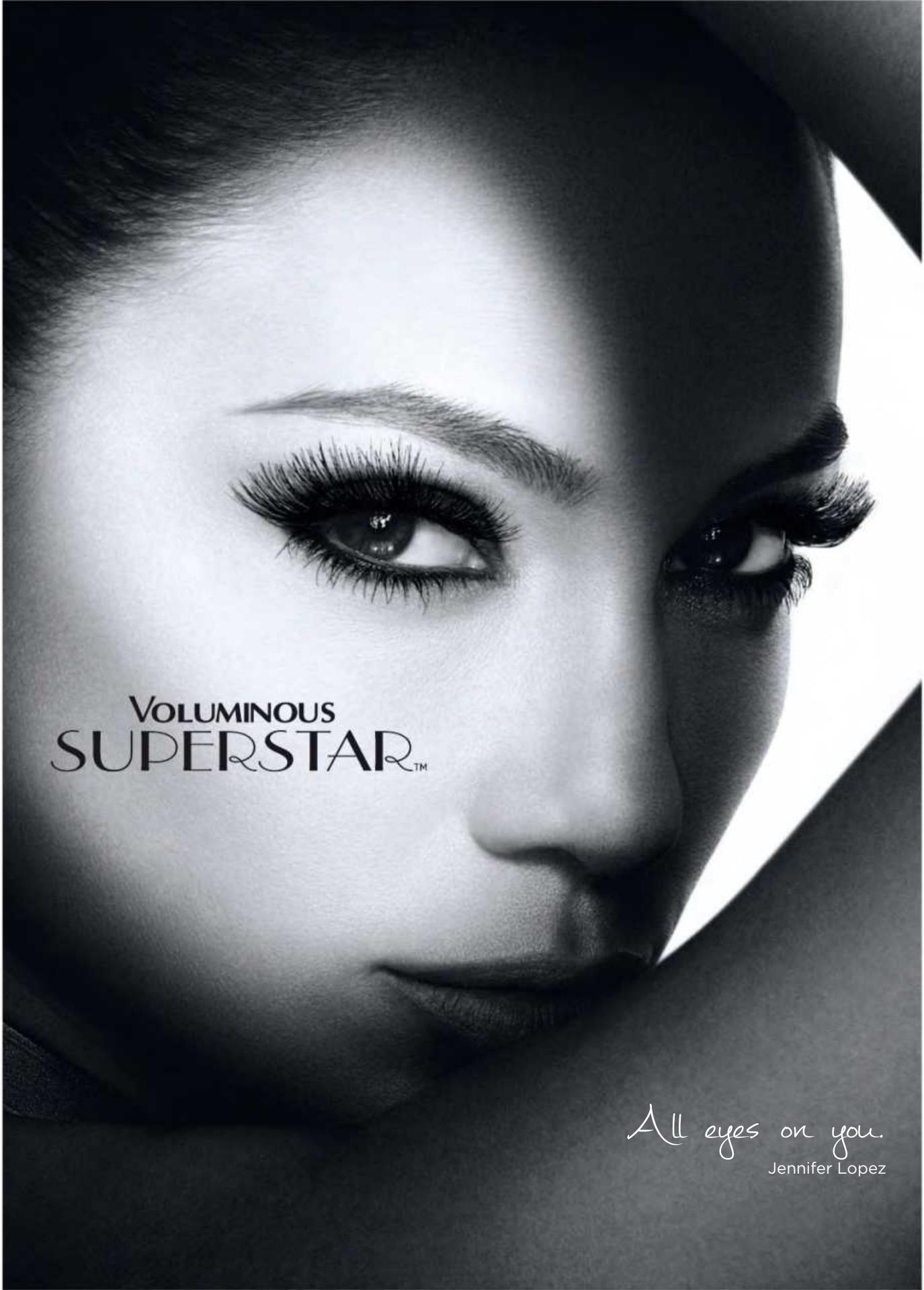
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1



2



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HEATHER OGDEN AND GUILLAUME CÔTÉ



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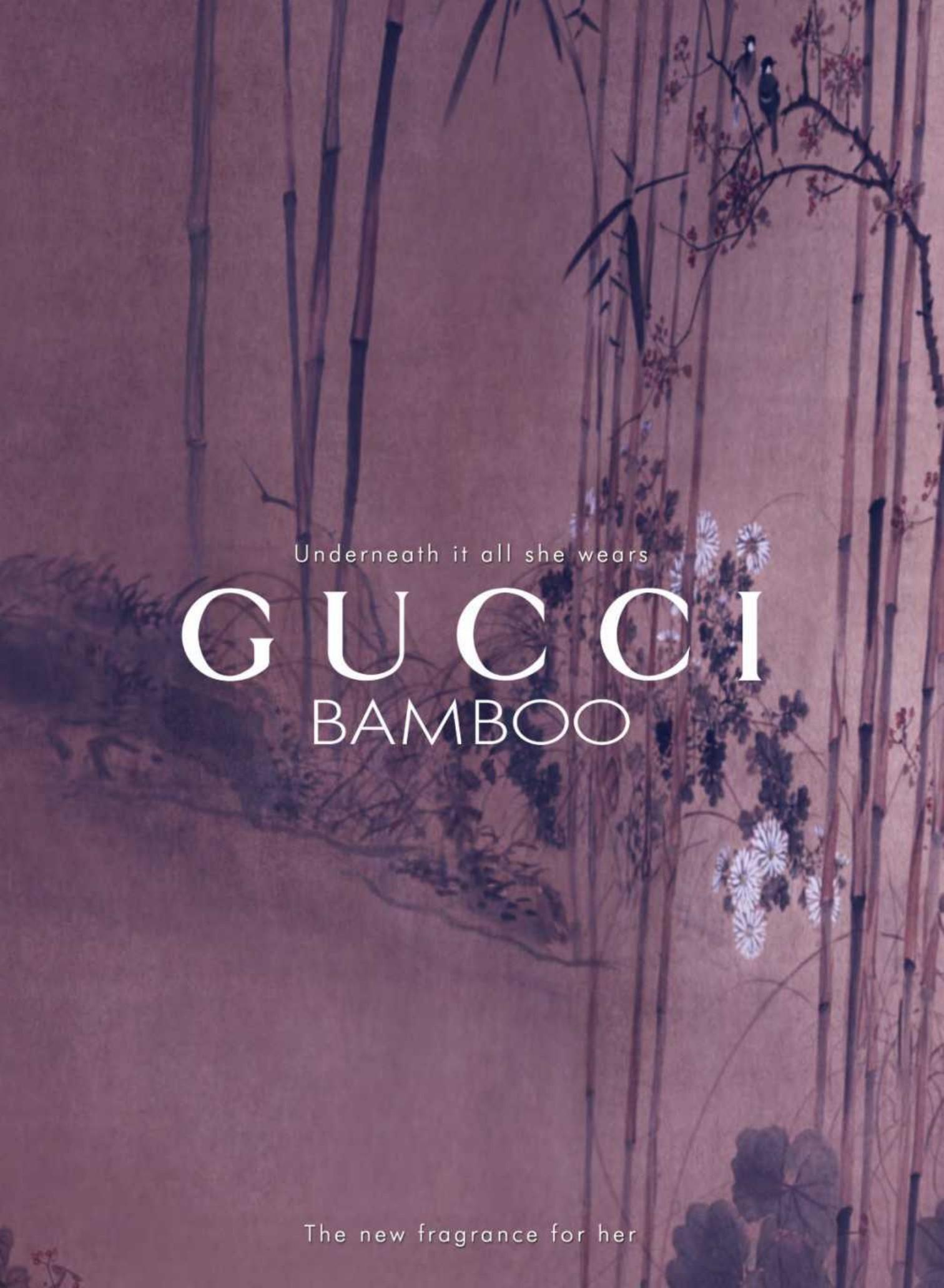





COACH
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Coach Swagger 27 in metallic blue
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coach.com

The background of the advertisement is a traditional East Asian ink wash painting. It depicts several vertical bamboo stalks of varying heights. Interspersed among the bamboo are delicate, branching blossoms in shades of pink, red, and white, likely plum or cherry blossoms. A few small birds are perched on the branches in the upper right corner.

Underneath it all she wears

GUCCI BAMBOO

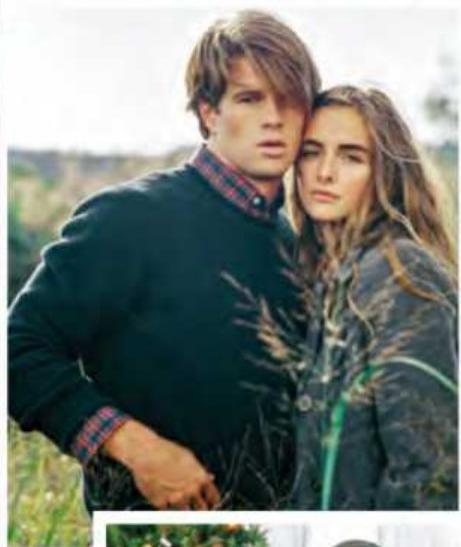
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CLARINS

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THAT GLARE THOUGH
Model Jenna dealt with a LOT of reflective surfaces while shooting our metallics story (page 134).



THE GOLDEN TICKET
This was our team's front door in L.A., where we shot the cover. It leads to Covell, a cool new hotel.



#INSTADAILY
It wouldn't be a Kylie Jenner cover shoot without a stolen moment to snap a mirror selfie—or 10.



STAR (WARS) POWER
Assistant beauty editor Victoria snapped Janelle Monáe at the NYC launch of *Star Wars* x CoverGirl.



CROWNING GLORY
Like what you see here? There are plenty more pearls where this came from on page 60.



MAKING FACES
Want to hint you'd love to see this Fendi bag under the tree this year? Flip to page 108 and leave open....



NO SUCH THING...
...as too much bling. Or at least that was the motto on-set for our "opulence" shoot (page 124).



WHAT A GEM
Pandora ambassador Janette is allllmost ready for her moment in the #ELLECanadaCloset (page 66).



WRITTEN IN THE SAND
We heart you back, hair and makeup artist Susana, on-set at our "opulence" shoot (page 124). □

TEXT BY SARAH LAING; ALL PHOTOS BY ELLE CANADA STAFF

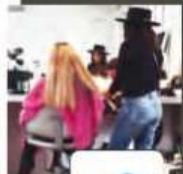


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the Internet...



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Kylie

#emojiNAILS

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Testing out
looks at
Hotel Covell
before the
shoot.



The glam squad:
Joyce Bonelli, Tom
Bachik and Jen Atkin



ELLE CANADA KYLIE GOING LIVE

*Step inside our
interactive cover shoot.*

Our day with the youngest member of the Kardashian-Jenner clan literally made headlines: Minutes after Kylie Snapchatted makeup artist Joyce Bonelli bleaching her brows, it was front-page news all over the Internet. On-set, the vibe was relaxed, and the word of the day, courtesy of King Kylie herself, was “dope”—from the clothes to the impromptu haircut by Jen Atkin. Alas, Norman (Kylie’s nearly-as-famous pup) wasn’t there, but she did receive a bouquet of roses from a secret admirer.... □



Thousands of you voted online to choose our
newsstand cover: 79 percent preferred the daring
La Bourjoisie look (right) over the sparkly Zuhair Murad.



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MODERN AHEAD OF ITS TIME





84

Read our one-on-one
with the youngest
member of the
Kardashian-Jenner clan.

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- 84 CELEBRITY** Kylie Jenner opens up about insecurity, bullying and growing up on TV.
By Aliyah Shamsher
- 101 GIFT GUIDE** Look no further! These are the only presents you'll need for all the people in your life this year.
- 123 FASHION** High-fashion inspiration for every occasion on your seasonal social calendar.
- 152 BEAUTY** Watch out, Rudolph! These show-stopping reds make the season bright.

DECEMBER 2015

CANADA
ELLE

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- 56 SHOPPING** Sophisticated slip dresses; 50 (give or take a few) shades of red; bold bling.
- 62 STYLE** Why fashion is getting its inspiration from the cloisters. *By Clara Young ▷*



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134

Sparkle like the city lights.

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By Brianne Hogan
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By Christina Reynolds
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By Vanessa Craft
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ON THE COVER



Kylie Jenner is wearing a bodysuit by La Bourjoisie, boots by Stuart Weitzman and her own bracelets. **Photographer** Max Abadian **Fashion direction** Juliana Schiavinatto **Hair** Jen Atkin (The Wall Group) **Makeup** Joyce Bonelli (DMLA) **Manicure** Tom Bachik (Cloutier Remix) **Art direction** Brittany Eccles

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GIVENCHY

DAHLIA DIVIN THE NEW FRAGRANCE

Eau de toilette



ALICIA KEYS



MERCI BEAUCOUP!

I want to give a special shout-out to Denis Desro for all the incredible work he created as fashion director for ELLE Canada and ELLE Québec. Desro, who has been with ELLE Canada since its launch in 2001, retired from the post this month. I want to thank him for the inspiring, poetic and whimsical fashion stories he told each month. We have created a gallery of his "best of" shoots at [ELLECanada.com](#), but before you check those out, please enjoy his closing shoot, "Message in a Bottle" (page 124), which, quite appropriately, celebrates opulent fabrics, ornate accessories and luxe embellishments.

I

This month's issue explores the return of luxury—especially its unabashed celebration on the international runways this season. The extravagance at Dries Van Noten, Lanvin and Marc Jacobs reflected an unapologetic optimism that carried through to the spring/summer 2016 shows. The more luxe collections have the added bonus of attracting the most impressive A-list front row. When you enter these hallowed venues, which are often ornate and dimly lit, you immediately notice a meteor shower of light surrounding different clusters of celebrities. The only way to find out who's behind this wall of light is to stealthily make your way into the mix. I was on a mission at the recent shows to capture some front-row catnip for ELLE Canada's Snapchat. The Elie Saab show always draws boldface patrons, so I knew I had to be ready to snap my 10-sec encounters. (This was my first time snapping—thanks to some coaching lessons from my nephew Liam—so I wasn't entirely confident in my technique.) Then I spotted my first subject: Kris Jenner. I frantically pressed the red record button and pushed my way into the band of photographers who surrounded one of the world's most famous momagers. It wasn't a super-close snap, but it was good enough. While I was fumbling to post the clip to our story, the photogs moved on and I was left standing in front of Jenner and Corey Gamble.

I was about to flip my iPhone 6s in her face and snap a real up-close-and-personal clip, but instead I decided to have an up-close-and-personal exchange. I reached out my hand and introduced myself, saying how pleased we were to have her daughter Kylie on our December cover. Mamma K, as I called her on my snap, leaned toward me and smiled. "Thank you for giving Kylie this wonderful opportunity," she said, her face visibly relaxing. "How did she do? Are you happy with the images? When are they out?" I assured her that her daughter had been amazing—and so engaged in the live cover—and that we were appreciative. I wished her well and stepped back into the darkened side of the room to take my seat. Jenner was soon engulfed by another "flashbulb" mob. During the week, I saw her expertly and patiently pose for professionals as well as selfie-seeking fans at many shows. At Hermès, we sat across the runway from each other. Like her fellow seatmates, she had her highly covetable Birkin bag placed by her side. Although this telegraphed the luxurious life she enjoys, I couldn't help but wonder if luxury—even for her—might be those rare moments when she's away from the lights. With the holidays approaching, I wish all of you a luxurious celebration—whether that means indulging in some of the 85 gifts you'll discover in our "Holiday Gift Guide 2015" (page 101) or simply having the luxury of time to do things that inspire you and spend time with the people who genuinely light up your life.

Noreen Flanagan
Editor-in-Chief

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GG3771/S

A close-up, slightly angled portrait of a woman's face. She has long, straight brown hair and is wearing dark sunglasses with gold-colored temples. The temple of the left sunglasses features the word "GUCCI" engraved. The woman is smiling, showing her teeth, and looking towards the right. The lighting is soft and warm.

GUCCI

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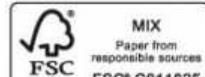
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WITH MIRANDA KERR



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Collection from \$89


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guestlist



DENIS DESRO
Fashion Director

THE GIG The ELLE Canada team bids adieu as long-time fashion director

Desro retires. His creative vision was behind countless fashion shoots over the years, and he will be missed. **RUNWAY**

MEMORIES “I was blessed to have the chance to witness the beauty and creativity of the shows in New York, Paris and Milan.”



page 124



KRISTIN ZAKALA
Model

THE GIG Calgarian Zakala enjoyed the “warm vibes on a cold day” behind the scenes of this month’s “Message in a Bottle” shoot. **ROLE**

MODEL “The best advice given to me was to ride the wave of the fashion world—to take advantage of everything the world of fashion has to offer instead of getting down on myself.”

JEN ATKIN
Hairstylist

THE GIG This Hawaiian native is well known for her part in cover girl Kylie Jenner’s glam squad. **BLOND**

AMBITION “Kylie is so fun to work with because she is so daring. She’s always experimenting with her hair, so she was willing to try something new.”



page 84



page 118



GUY SADDY
Writer

THE GIG West Coaster Saddy delves into the world of opulence and why we all find it so darned fascinating. **WISH LIST** “If I could receive anything this year, it would

be a perfectly preserved mid-century-modern home in Vancouver. Talk about expensive, if not entirely opulent.”

BRIANNE HOGAN
Writer

THE GIG Pickering, Ont., native Hogan shares her story of being raised by a mom with Asperger’s. **MIND SHIFT** “I hope to

shed light on a different perspective of autism, which, in turn, might promote discovery and healing for others.” □



page 96

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THIS MONTH'S BEST

I'd just like to thank all of the ELLE Canada staff for a truly beautiful, creative and inspirational magazine. The September 2015 issue was the first one I purchased, and I was delightfully surprised to find that it had not only a ton of fashion and beauty info but also really interesting articles from a Canadian perspective. The fact that a fashion magazine places emphasis on issues like the daycare crisis facing working moms [ELLE Life] and such philosophical concepts as knowing and understanding your true self [ELLE Relationship] is truly astounding to me. Thank you for seeing Canadian women as thoughtful, intelligent and unique. I very much look forward to purchasing my next issue.

LAUREN SCOTT, EMAIL

ECO-TRIP

Thank you for allowing eco-fashion to be at the forefront of the conversation and for printing Sarah Jay's "Lands of Contradiction" [ELLE Travel, September 2015]. As a vegan and as close to a naturalist as possible, I think it's imperative that we better understand the controversial toxins that can go into skin products and clothing manufacturing methods. Education and starting a conversation are the first steps toward change.

DIMITRIOS SEYMOUR,
TORONTO

GREETINGS FROM POLAND

I'm so HAPPY!! Thank you for replying to my letter and fulfilling my ELLE dreams by sending me a copy of ELLE Canada's October 2015 issue. (I've included a picture of me with my collection of international ELLEs.) I will never forget it or the letter from editor

Noreen. I fell in love with the "Material Girl" [ELLE Fashion] fashion shoot—it reminded me of my favourite Polish singers from the '80s, like Małgorzata Ostrowska and Kora Jackowska. It's amazing to see how similar trends are on the other side of the world. **GOSIA DAMBEK, ODOLANÓW, POLAND**

MUCH MORE

We are writing to express our disappointment with "Internet Killed the Video Star" [ELLE Radar, November 2015]. We think it provided a one-sided view of Much from the perspective of former VJs (pre-2005). We at Bell Media understand that some people are nostalgic for how Much used to be. Our current viewers, however, are very much engaged and happy with today's Much. This past June, fans turned up in droves to see the MMVAs, which chalked up two



billion social impressions. We have diverse, smart and engaging VJs who, like the VJs profiled in your story, are "normal, charming, albeit imperfect, people." Much is a healthy business. We could have provided ample evidence that "whispers that the channel won't survive much longer" are far from the truth. **SARAH MCLAREN, BELL MEDIA**

OOPS!

In "The 2015 Beauty Grand Prix" (November 2015), the winner in the "Face Luminizer" category should have been Clarins Instant Light Radiance Boosting Complexion Base.

Send us your letters via email at **ELLELetters@ELLECanada.com** or snail mail at ELLE Canada, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M2N 6S7. Include your name and address. Letters may be edited. For full contest rules, go to ELLECanada.com/writeandwin.

TWEET LOVE

@CTVAshTomei So loved meeting the fashion director of @ELLECanada Juliana Schiavinatto today on the show!

@StylistRebecca Love the interview with @HAIMtheband in @ELLECanada #sisters are the best!! #family @hopeherfuture

Taking notes from @ELLECanada & the legend @CindyCrawford. @Straticall Stunning.

What a dame! This shoot is AMAZING @Cindy Crawford @ELLECanada

@inkyinkyfingers The @ELLECanada five-page feature on letter-writing is my everything.

@tarakjpratt One of my souvenirs from my time at @TIFF_NET: this copy of @ELLECanada



The writer of the best letter will win a bottle of Estée Lauder Modern Muse Le Rouge Eau de Parfum Spray (valued at \$122).

I CONSIDER *CANDY* *A* *FOOD* *GROUP.*



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SEEING RED Red wine, red nails, red-velvet cake pops... Can you sense a theme at three of the events we held across Canada this fall? (Hi, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver!) Guests got to channel their dark (red) side with manis and makeup in the season's hottest hue (as seen on our October cover star, Cindy Crawford), enjoy Apothic wines and get tips from fashion features editor Lisa on how to wear the dramatic colour this fall.



HOT TICKET

ELLE Canada travelled to the dark and the lighter sides this month.



BEACH PARTY At TIFF this year, we got in on all the glamour and buzz of Nikki Beach's annual pop-up at the Spoke Club in Toronto with a virtual-reality zone of our own. Guests were pampered, received fashion tips and got to try out the groundbreaking virtual-reality experience of our Diane Kruger cover shoot. □

TEXT BY SARAH LAING; ROMAIN MAURICE (NIKKI BEACH); PAGE ACTIVATIONS (APOTHIC)

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Kelly Clarkson

Three-Time Grammy Award Winner



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Citizen  Sunrise
Mother-of-Pearl Diamond Dial
Floating Diamonds

CITIZEN

BETTER STARTS NOW



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BURBERRY

A FRAGRANCE INSPIRED BY
THE ICONIC TRENCH COAT

MONOGRAM AS A GIFT
AT BURBERRY.COM



ELLE STYLE

FASHION NEWS, SHOPPING HITS & RUNWAY TRENDS

Metal and faux-
pearl sunglasses,
Chanel (from
\$800, chanel.com)



SPEC-TACULAR!

*Accessorize like
every day is a party.*

EDITOR'S POV Self-control has never been fashion's forte. And why should it be? A stylish spectacle is often an extravagant one—that's why it commands attention. This season, designers have given us all the tools necessary to tackle holiday-party dress codes with flair: embellishments, rich velvets and silks, embroidered fabrics and captivating silhouettes. There's no such thing as *too much* in this dressing game, so pile on your best bijoux and RSVP "yes" to all invitations that come your way.

LISA GUIMOND

SOFT TOUCH

Fervent *Seinfeld* quoters, rejoice: It's time to ensconce yourselves in velvet. Aritzia's winter collection (out this month) features plenty of the plush, sumptuous material to get excited about. Our pick? A mauve slip dress that can handle the holiday party circuit (\$185, aritzia.com).



LATEST & GREATEST

STYLE SCOOP

What's cool, cutting edge & important.

NEW LOOK Jewellery designer Daisy Knights, whose boho baubles have been spotted on everyone from Rihanna to Cara Delevingne, is taking her collection of pendants, rings and bracelets to the next level. This month, Knights, who is based in London, England, is introducing diamond accents to some of her classics—like a skull ring with a blinged-out grin (\$440, daisyknights.com). She's even adding a new shape to the charm mix: Her cactus anklet is perfect for the wild child in your crew.

WHAT TO BUY A FASHION EDITOR FOR THE HOLIDAYS



JULIANA SCHIAVINATTO

FASHION DIRECTOR

"These boots feel gritty cool—they're the ultimate '90s throwback. Plus, a little extra height never hurt anyone." Leather boots, Vetements (\$2,960, at ssense.com)



LISA GUIMOND

FASHION FEATURES EDITOR

"I have a major obsession with bags, and there's nothing I like more than a statement piece. (Hello, spray-paint effect.)" Leather bag, Balenciaga (\$6,063, at NET-A-PORTER.com)



ELAINE REGIO

MARKET EDITOR

"During the inevitable polar vortex, this shearling number will be my puffy-parka alternative." Leather and shearling jacket, Alexander McQueen (\$6,060, at matchesfashion.com)



LIZ GUBER

ASSOCIATE FASHION EDITOR

"This pair of vintage embroidered Levi's appeals to my unapologetic love of all things cowboy." Cotton jeans, Bliss and Mischief (\$618, blissandmischief.com) □

INITIAL REACTION

At Burberry's newly launched Scarf Bar (open in Toronto and Vancouver and online), you can take home a monogrammed cashmere scarf—just like It girls CJD (Cara Delevingne) and SJP (you know). There's only one question: Which colour of thread will you choose? (From \$635, ca.burberry.com)



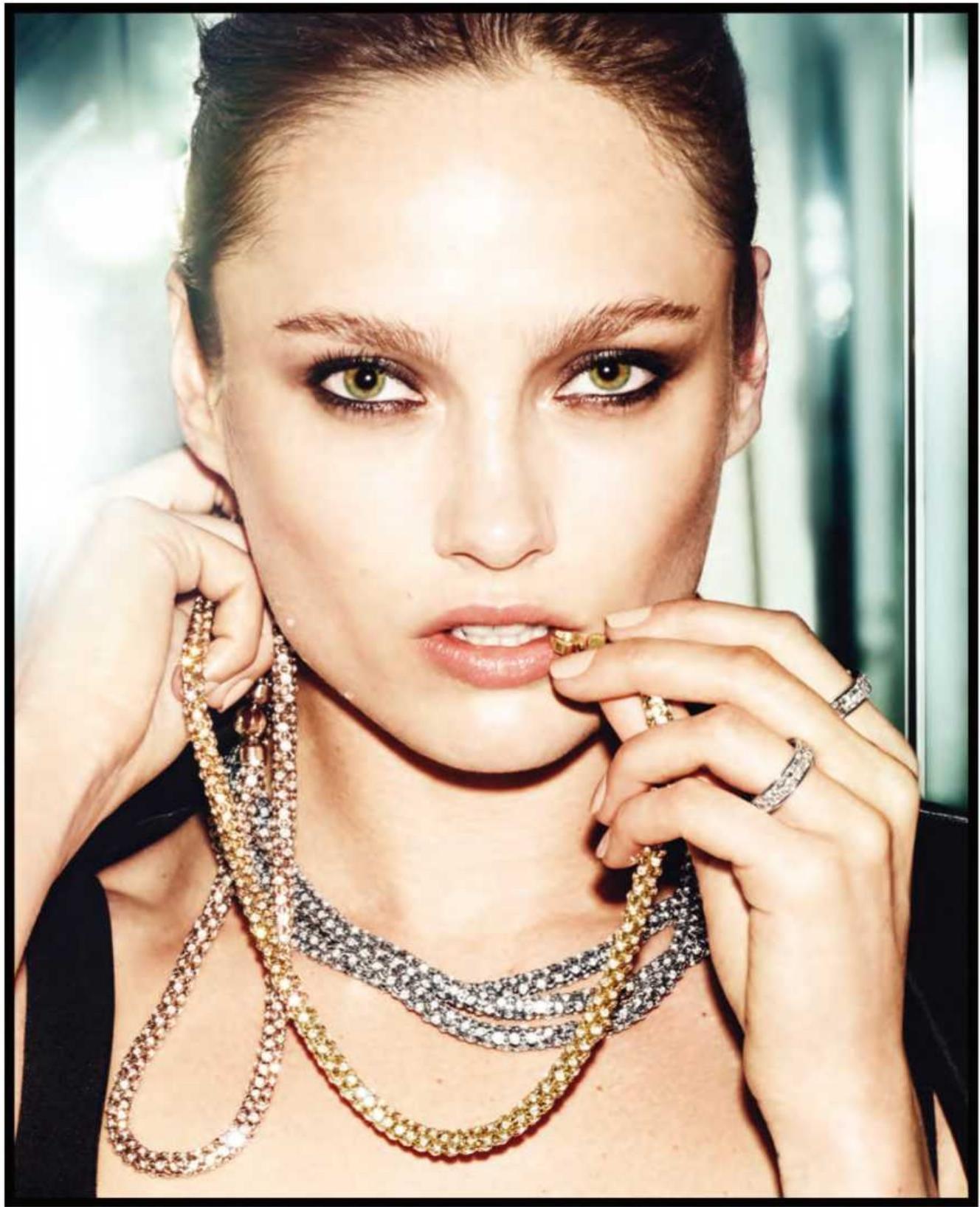
STORE OPENING

G BRUNELLO CUCINELLI IN VANCOUVER

Brunello Cucinelli's headquarters occupy a 14th-century stone castle in idyllic Umbria, Italy. For its first Canadian boutique, the *maison* will bring a bit of the "Cucinelli castle" to Vancouver's Thurlow Street. The boutique will debut the fall/winter 2015 line—think easy luxe pieces like cashmere cardigans, shearling coats and cropped wool trousers (boutique.brunellocucinelli.com/ca).

STORE





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MICHAELKORS.COM



Polyester, Free People (\$131.35, freepeople.com)



Polyester, H&M (\$49.99, hm.com)



Wear it with
→

BOW BLOUSE
Polyester, Mango (\$119.30, mango.com)



Polyester, Zara (\$39.90, zara.com)



Viscose, Topshop (\$64.18, topshop.com)



Silk satin, Tibi (\$1,319.42, tibi.com)



Viscose and wool, Nina Ricci (\$1,843.59, at mytheresa.com)



NINE-TO-FIVE

SEXY BACK

Bring a little boudoir to the boardroom with these slinky slips.



TROUSERS
Wool blend, Club Monaco (\$198.50, clubmonaco.com)



QUILTED COAT Polyester, Gerry Weber (\$499, gerryweber.com)



MICHAEL KORS

MICHAELKORS.COM



SPOTLIGHT

SCARLET FEVER

*It takes two to tango:
Red and black are this
season's hottest couple.*



1. Velour velvet booties, Topshop (\$175, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com).
2. Cotton-blend pants, Tibi (\$664.96, tibi.com).
3. Polyester scarf, Zara (\$9.90, zara.com).
4. Knit sweater, REDValentino (\$495, at matchesfashion.com).
5. Polyester-blend romper, BCBGMAXAZRIA (\$373, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com).
6. Lace shirtdress, Diane von Furstenberg (\$1,005, at matchesfashion.com).
7. Plastic and polyester earrings, H&M (\$14.99, hm.com).
8. Wool hat, Forever 21 (\$22.90, forever21.com).
9. Fleece poncho, Winners (\$34.99, winners.ca).
10. Leather belt, Mango (\$69.95, mango.com).
11. Cotton-blend skirt, Maje (\$340, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com).
12. Sequined minaudière, Alice and Olivia (\$664.96, aliceandolivia.com).
13. Hematite and black-crystal ring, Claire's (\$16.79, claires.com).



VERSACE



STYLED BY JULIANA SCHIAVINATO; IMAXTREE (RUNWAY & BACKSTAGE)



MAN OF TODAY

GERARD BUTLER FOR BOSS BOTTLED



BOSS
HUGO BOSS

#MANOFTODAY

PEARL JAM A precious classic rocks out.

1. Gold-plated choker with pearl cabochons, Cuchara (\$118, cuchara.squarespace.com). 2. Gold-tone-brass and faux-pearl ring, Chloé (\$335, matchesfashion.com). 3. Zinc and acrylic earrings, Zara (\$17.90, zara.com).

4. 14-karat-gold-dipped-brass and glass-pearl cuff, Jenny Bird (\$112.70, jenny-bird.com). 5. Brass, enamel and faux-pearl earrings, Givenchy (\$720, ssense.com). 6. Crystal and faux-pearl cuff, Bebe (\$48, bebe.com).

7. Crystal and faux-pearl clip earrings, Balenciaga (\$1,173.42, at NET-A-PORTER.com). 8. Gold-tone-metal, faux-pearl and rhinestone ring, Topshop (\$15, topshop.com). 9. Rose-gold and pearl choker, Ryan Storer (\$848.52, avenue32.com). 10. Faux-rhodium-plated-brass earrings, Fallon (\$265, fallonjewelry.com). 11. Faux-pearl and rhinestone bangle, Asos (\$33.63, asos.com). 12. Silver and pearl ring, Thomas Sabo (\$224, thomassabo.com).





#FACETHENIGHT

REHYDRATE - SMOOTH - SOOTHE

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THERM

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CREAM-IN-MASK
SMOOthes SKIN LIKE A CREAM
SOOTHes LIKE A SPA MASK

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AQUASOURCE
NIGHT SPA

OUR BEST-SELLING
HYDRATING DAY CREAM

NEW
HYDRATING NIGHT CREAM



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London department store Selfridges showcased designers like Rad Hourani and Ann Demeulemeester in Agender, its gender-free pop-up.





YEEZY



NARCISO RODRIGUEZ

VALENTINO

HAS FASHION LOST ITS SEX APPEAL?

Clara Young explores the new wave of gender-bending style.

Last spring, London department store Selfridges conducted an experiment: They launched an alternative to the old-fashioned convention of men's and ladies' clothing departments and opened up a temporary space called Agender. Agender, as you would expect, was a gender-neutral shopping space. It proposed unisex "kits" that served as foundational wardrobes for those who want to escape the tired old gender categories of he and she. Among the labels Agender showcased were Comme des Garçons, Ann Demeulemeester, VFiles and Rad Hourani.

Hourani, especially, is a pioneer in genderless clothing and calls himself the "first unisex designer in history." He started out making clothes for himself nine years ago, and it led to his developing a namesake line that neatly sidesteps his-and-hers distinctions. In 2013, his spring/summer Paris couture presentation was the first-ever official unisex runway show. "I took a full year to understand the different shapes of bodies and how I could assemble all genders in one to create a unisex canvas that can make them longer, slicker, new and comfortable at the same time," he explains. "I don't understand who assigned these codes of dressing by gender. It doesn't make sense to me that a woman should dress in a different way from a man or vice versa." While Hourani has stayed true to his philosophy for the past decade, other designers have only just begun swinging around ▷



FASHION JEDIS

The wardrobe for *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens* (out in December) may be based in fantasy, but designers have brought it to life on the runway (far left and centre); Yeezy's s/s '16 collection continues to champion gender-neutral styling (near left).

to his unisex way of thinking. The fall/winter runways were dominated by a monastic silhouette that references Pope Francis and that other religious showstopper, the Dalai Lama. The shaman-like outfitting marked the advent of a new kind of wardrobe—one that is not only gender-free but also sexuality-free. While unisex is by no means synonymous with non-sexual, this season's non-denominational high-priest look is. It's an ascetic aesthetic that has been the mainstay of designers like Hourani, Rick Owens, Damir Doma, The Row and Haider Ackermann. But now it has spread to more mainstream (for lack of a better word) or, at least, less sexually ambiguous labels.

At Ann Demeulemeester, Narciso Rodriguez, Vionnet and Valentino reigned a robed, tunicky, Oracle of Delphi vibe that strikes the same tone as ceremonial vestments. The all-white monastic dress at Valentino ready-to-wear, the griffin-embroidered caftan robe and gold medallion at Valentino haute couture, the draped, cowl-necked priestesses at Vionnet and the long tunic vests at Narciso Rodriguez all possessed a serene, ritualistic, above-the-fray quality. Modern, minimalist, mystical and modest, the vocabulary of sashes, cassocks, hoods and ankle-length robes is not so much gender-spanning as asexual. "It's evident how much Rick Owens has indeed influenced this trend," admits Marcell Rocha, a Paris-based stylist. "I've definitely noticed for a few seasons now that it's becoming prominent among other designers."

The preamble to men and women dressing the same is men dressing like women and women dressing like men. There has been a slow leak between his and hers over the past decade and a half, since Madonna and Nicole Kidman wore Christian Dior men's suits in the early 2000s. During Hedi Slimane's tenure in menswear there at that time, women in the know headed straight for his asphyxiatingly skinny suits. Meanwhile, Jean Paul Gaultier has been trying to get men to wear skirts for as long



WHO WORE IT BEST? Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia in *Star Wars* or Tilda Swinton in Valentino?

as he has been in business. Ironically, it was just about when he announced his departure from ready-to-wear that feminine menswear started to take off. Gucci's first collection last fall by new creative director Alessandro Michele proposed pussy-bow blouses and red-lace tops for men, while J.W. Anderson has made a menswear staple out of bustiers and drapey T-shirts.

Genderless clothing is the natural evolution of all of this his-and-hers mingling, but it also creates a third, neutral category all its own. "It's a very interesting time we're living in," says Nicholas Mellamphy, buyer for The Room at Hudson's Bay. "Five years ago, it was the 'boyfriend jeans' and 'boyfriend jacket.' Now it's just 'your jacket.' It's just oversized. We're not talking the same way."

The result of boyfriends and girlfriends having been subtracted from the equation is the undeniable asexuality that underlies the *gravitas* of this season's monastic garments. What happens when the absence of sexual desire encounters an industry that is saturated with it? Mellamphy thinks it elevates fashion to a "higher plane." "A lot of older women love this look because it allows the fashion to showcase you rather than you showcase the fashion," he says. "It's so stripped down and free of embellishment that I think of the women who wear that type of collection as almost anti-fashion. It's intellectual chic."

The mood, however, is not minimalist, despite the monochromatic colour palettes and gender-effacing silhouettes. Everything from the long asymmetrical sheaths at Damir Doma to the Mayan geometry and "doors of perception" seaming on Rick Owens' peplum tunics has the enigmatic gravity and elegance of ritual. They make the compelling case in fashion that less—less gender, less sexuality, less embellishment—is, simply, more. □

OUR 1ST ANTI-AGING SKINCARE DARING TO CHALLENGE A LASER SESSION[†]

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Andie MacDowell

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SHINE BRIGHT

This month, we invited Janette Ewen, expert gift giver and PANDORA Jewellery enthusiast, to choose her favourite jewels from the #ELLECanadaCloset.

Photographs by Evaan Kheraj



Some of the jewels Janette is wearing include the Radiant Hearts charm (\$90), Geometric Facets charm (\$55) and Radiant Embellishment ring (\$100).

HOLIDAY WISH

"I love shopping for things that my friends are going to cherish. When I see someone carrying a purse that I gave them 10 years ago, it makes me happy," says Janette Ewen. Finding that perfect gift, however, isn't always easy. That's why the decor stylist and jewellery lover wants to take the stress out of your gift giving. "Keeping gifts chic and curated will make your holidays more relaxed and magical."

#ELLECanadaClosetxPANDORA



EDITORS' PICK

If you're going to live in a cold country, you may as well embrace its unique beauty. #snowflake This little sparkler will instantly up the glam factor of your go-to party dress. It's how we like to "ring" in the New Year.



Sterling-silver, crystal and cubic-zirconia "Crystallized Snowflake" ring, \$100

"WHEN YOU'RE WEARING A DRESS THAT MAKES YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE, THE ICING ON THE CAKE IS THE JEWELLERY."

ELLE CANADA

Learn more about PANDORA Jewellery's holiday gift ideas and get inspired by going online to ELLECanada.com/stylishholiday

CHECK YOUR LIST TWICE...

Janette Ewen shares her holiday-shopping game plan with us, because less time spent shopping = more time spent enjoying the parties. Her last piece of advice? Pay attention to the presentation! Top each gift with a sprig of holly and add a personalized note.

1. Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Starshine" ring, \$90.
2. Sterling-silver, crystal and cubic-zirconia "Radiant Hearts" charm, \$90.
3. Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Classic Elegance" charm, \$75.
4. Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "All Wrapped Up" charm, \$70.
5. Sterling-silver, crystal and cubic-zirconia "Crystallized Snowflake" earrings, \$85.

"Give this friendship ring to all the members of your #girlssquad."



"Surprise your sister with this sparkling stocking stuffer."



EDITORS' STYLE TIPS

STACK RINGS Wear two or three rings on one finger and mix sizes and styles for maximum impact. Your new holiday accessory mantra: More is more! (Silver and cubic-zirconia "Crossing Paths" ring, \$90; sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Starshine" ring, \$90; silver and cubic-zirconia "Classic Elegance" ring, \$95)



MIX AND MATCH Wearing gold and silver together used to be a fashion faux pas, but now it's a stylish statement. We love this combination of silver earrings and delicate gold bands. Add a LBD and you're ready to hit the party circuit. (Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Classic Elegance" earrings, \$105; gold and cubic-zirconia "Sparkling Bow" ring, \$440)



"Add some sparkle to your best friend's life with these little gems."



"A sentimental gift for your mom or favourite aunt."



GET CHARMED

These small treasures will make a big impact!



Sterling-silver, cubic-zirconia and red enamel "Sparkling Surprise" charm, \$90



Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Ice Crystal" charm, \$90



Sterling-silver and cubic-zirconia "Twinkling Christmas Tree" charm, \$80



IF I REALLY FEEL LIKE SPOILING SOMEONE, I GIVE THEM A BRACELET WITH FIVE OR SIX CHARMS.



"You might want to keep these earrings for yourself!"



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BEAUTY EDITORS
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*Magazine Awards in 2014 from top Canadian Publications with award programs.

ELLE RADAR

TRACKING THE BEST IN MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & ART

Up-and-coming actress Brie Larson talks about the perils of being perfect and going makeup-free on the big screen in *Room*.



STEPPING OUT

*Go ahead
and celebrate!*



IF THE (DANCING) SHOE FITS...

Faux-leather heels, Zara (\$49.90, zara.com); leather pumps, Gianvito Rossi (\$1,173, at NET-A-PORTER.com); leather and fabric pumps, J.Crew (\$353, jcrew.com); satin heels with crystal embellishment, Badgley Mischka (\$360, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com)



EDITOR'S POV How does actress Brie Larson define luxury? For her, it's finally learning to love the skin she's in. For Princess Tatiana of Greece and Denmark, it's being able to give gifts that support artists from her native Greece. And for me, it's spending time with the people I don't get to see most of the year. But the most important question is...how do you define luxury? I promise it will be one of the best conversations you have with yourself this year. Let the discussions begin!

ALIYAH SHAMSHER

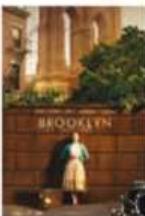
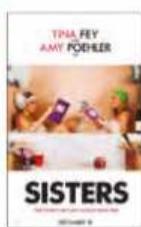
PROFILE

LAID BARE

Straight talk from the star of Room.

**5**

MORE FLICKS WITH STRONG FEMALE LEADS COMING YOUR WAY...



LATEST & GREATEST

HIT LIST

What we're talking about this month.

is. I think it's a beautiful thing. I could have done all the same preparation, but if I had done that performance wearing foundation, I don't think anybody would have believed a second of it." The California native has a point: A character who's meant to have been held by her kidnapper in a

From top: *Carol* (December 18), *Sisters* (December 18), *Brooklyn* (November 4), *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2* (November 20) and *The Danish Girl* (November 27)

shed for years but somehow has just the right natural flush would have made the Canadian film less indie authentic, more Lifetime drama.

"That's not what this movie is about, and it's not what I'm about personally," says Larson. "I'm way more interested in 'Let's see ourselves! I'm more comfortable without makeup.'" A quick raised eyebrow indicates that, yes, she's aware of the fact that we're doing this interview with her in a full face of makeup, and, yes, she totally sees the irony. "I think this concept of perfection is slowly killing us," she elaborates. "I'm never going to be; once you release yourself from that confine, life is so much more fun!"

Larson wasn't always comfortable in her own skin—in fact, she says she used to be the girl who wouldn't walk the dog without a full face of makeup. "Then one day I woke up and did the math," she recalls. "I was going to lose years of my life getting ready for something that was already happening."

It's a realization that has parallels in her career: After films like *21 Jump Street* and *Don Jon*, Larson has finally hit her stride with *Room*. It's an emotionally charged film that won critical acclaim at TIFF and generated major awards talk for Larson's performance. "I'm very interested in the complexities inside of us, so if I'd stuck to being really obsessed with clothes and makeup, maybe I wouldn't have taken the time to look deeper because I would be contouring for the rest of my life!"

SARAH LAING ▶



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two snacks. My day starts at the farmers' market, and then I come up to the house and prep all day. While I make breakfast, I have chicken going in my sous-vide machine, I'm roasting vegetables for lunch and then I'm starting dinner. Then I'm onto snacks like roasted cashews or dark chocolate."

Do you get sad mad like our moms did when your client says he won't be home for dinner at the last minute? "It crushes my heart! I'm like, 'That chicken was going to be good too!' But seriously, I don't throw anything out. If he doesn't end up eating it, it goes to the next day's meal."

SECRETS OF A CELEBRITY PRIVATE CHEF

Known for whipping up (secretly healthy) hot dogs for her current client, *Family Guy* creator Seth MacFarlane, chef Vikki Krinsky also clocks in time on *Recipe Rehab*, where she does on TV what she does in real life: cuts the cals in comfort-food classics while keeping them delish enough for even the most A-list of palates. (She would know: Previous clients include Tobey Maguire and Katherine Heigl.) We asked the Vancouver-raised Los Angeles-based Krinsky everything you've ever wanted to know about being a private chef to the stars.

What does a private chef actually do all day? "I work six days a week; I make breakfast, lunch, dinner and

What don't people know about being a private chef? "You're on call—your schedule changes so many times a day and you never know where you're going to have to serve your food. It's also more than being a chef; it's a well-rounded, nurturing profession. You're in someone's home, and they have to trust you. Clients will have very famous people come over, and you have to keep your shit together. Most kitchens are in the heart of the home, so it's definitely a cultivation of trust and friendship."

What's Seth's comfort-food craving? "He loves PB & J! I make my own jam and almond butter."



Santa got your letter last year, and professional curmudgeon Bill Murray is getting his own Christmas special, directed by Sofia Coppola (out December 4). Premise: A snowstorm nearly gets in the way of a comedian's variety show, but it's saved by a cast of singing and dancing celebs. Here's what we hope happens: 1. Miley Cyrus performs a rendition of "The Christmas Song" that alters the meaning of "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" forever. 2. Murray shares some of his legendary dating advice with a couple, played by Amy Poehler and Michael Cera, who plan to break up after the holidays. 3. George Clooney stars as an Armani-wearing Santa, thanks to a makeover by new human-rights lawyer Mrs. Claus, played by Amal.

3
THINGS WE
REALLY HOPE
HAPPEN ON
NETFLIX'S A
VERY MURRAY
CHRISTMAS

MUSIC



BEHIND THE SONG WITH JESS GLYNNE

We got this so-hot-right-now Brit (fronts a new Bench campaign, scored five number one singles in the U.K. in 2015, has just released a single that has been viewed on YouTube 15 million times and counting) to give us the inside scoop on three songs from her brand-new album, *I Cry When I Laugh*.

"Why Me" "I wrote this with the producer Knox Brown, who I worked with for most of my album. It came from a place of frustration—I'd been treated kind of badly, and I was just having one of those 'Grr, why me?' days."

"Ain't Got Far to Go" "This was a defining song on the album. It was the first one I wrote that I knew 'Okay, this is where I'm going sound-wise and everything-wise.' It has been a long time coming to where I am now, and it finally felt like I didn't have far to go."

"No Rights No Wrongs" "This was one of the most fun sessions I've ever had to create a song! We [Brown, collaborator Janee Bennett and others] were all in a room, just jamming out. It's about life and why things happen. I believe in fate, and this song is about the questions you can't really answer. It makes me feel so good singing it!" □



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PARTY DOWN

Let's take your holiday celebrations from ho-ho-humdrum to five-star festive fabulousness.

BY SARAH LAING

TABLE TOPPERS



"Taika" plate, Mjolk (\$49, mjolk.ca); "Alessandro M." and "Anna G." corkscrews, Alessi (\$55 and \$58, alessi.com); "Pop" glasses, Jonathan Adler (\$18 each, jonathanadler.com)

HOW TO HOST A FRENCH-APPROVED BOXING DAY BRUNCH

The team at café and bakery Maman Toronto are known for their aesthetically pleasing and delicious blending of Michelin-level cooking with home-style recipes from the South of France, so *naturellement* we asked them for tips on how to master an effortless epicurean feast on December 26.

Make it a buffet. This makes it easier to cater to your guests and allows everyone to eat at their own pace.

Decorate outside the box. Create some elevation among the dishes using cake stands or upside-down wooden crates or salad bowls. Add some natural elements, such as tree branches, candles, holly and pine cones.

Christmas-dinner leftovers are your friend. Has the cheeseboard been finished? How about the turkey? Think of all the elements that can be incorporated into your brunch menu.

Drinks should be fresh and light. Like a French 75. (Psst: Maman's recipe is on the next page.) ▷

"the best way to see the

virgin snow?

I suggest you turn
down the lights."

Essie

winter
collection
2015



shall we chalet?



altitude attitude



peak show

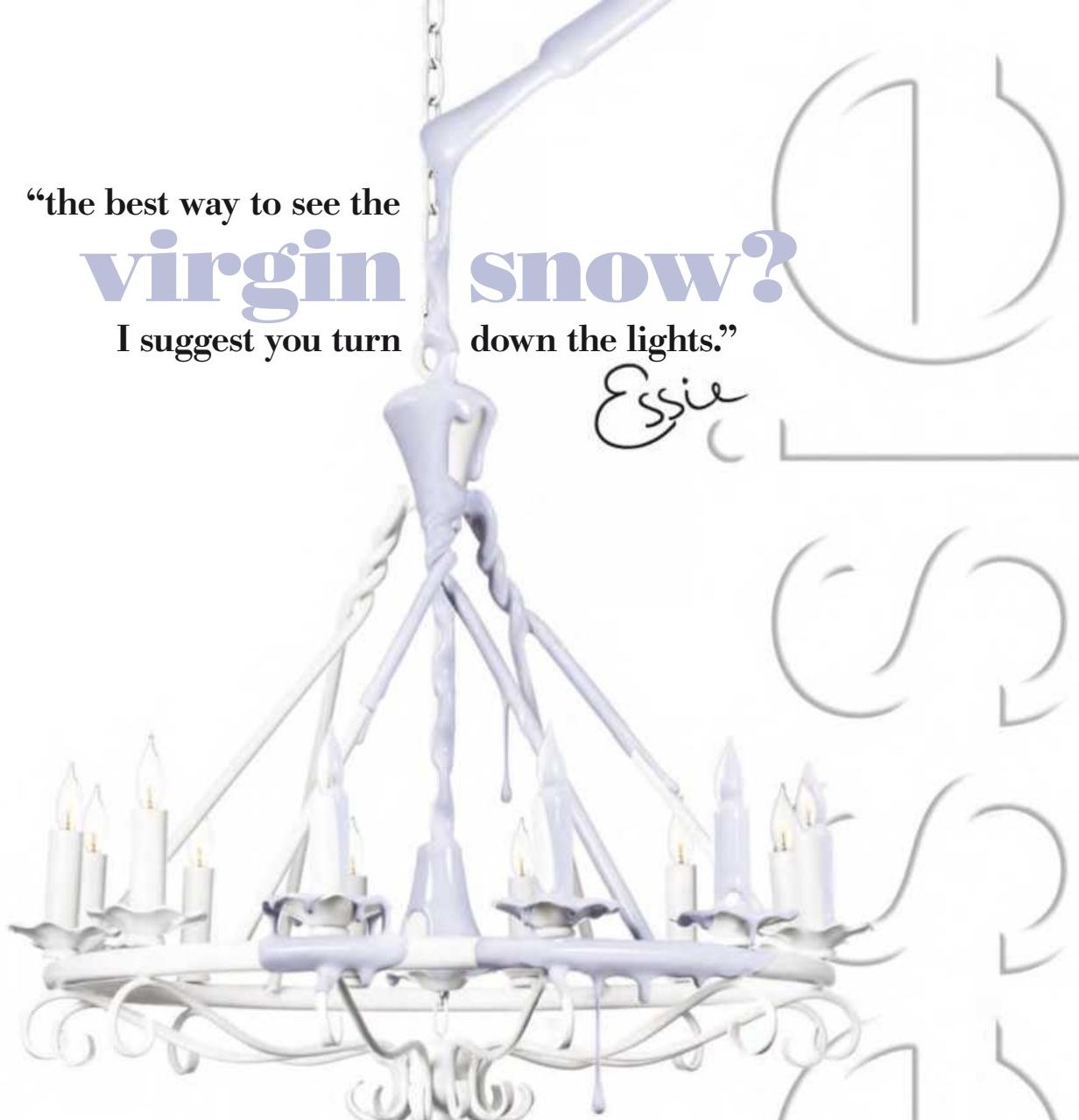


apres-chic



haute tub

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SKIP THE COCKTAIL SCENE ENTIRELY

...because hot toddies are the new pumpkin-spice latte.

Bacardi ambassador Trevor Burnett likes to serve his in a teapot: "It's a fun way to host friends when they come over at 4 p.m.; they'll end up staying well into the evening." His tip? Put out bowls of star anise, cloves and nutmeg so guests can customize their cup of "tea." For his minty twist on a toddy, go to ELLECanada.com. "Pop" teapot, EQ3 (\$49.95, eq3.com)



BECAUSE RED'S
BIT OBVIOUS. NON?

Sally Hansen Complete Salon
Manicure in You Glow Girl and
Gleam Supreme (\$9 each,
at drugstores and mass-
market retailers)

HOW TO THROW THE EASIEST COCKTAIL PARTY EVER

Spending the evening mixing everyone else's drinks is silly. This year, let your guests do the work. Joe McCanta, brand ambassador for Grey Goose, shows us how it's done.

The base Set up a table and put out bottles of vodka and rum or any other spirit you have on hand.

The sour Then come
the fresh lemons,
limes and grapefruit.

The sweet Simple syrup, maple simple syrup or honey will do just fine.

The mixer Soda water
is always a classic.

The rules Have guests choose one from each category—like vodka for their spirit, honey for their sweet, grapefruit for their sour.

The fun Put out a bunch of glasses and have everyone make their own cocktails. Everyone starts talking about what they've made and sharing their creations...and you aren't doing any of the work! ▷

A LITTLE MOOD MUSIC

A slow burner “Left Behind” by Lou Dillion

New holiday release
“Once Again It’s Christmas” by Kenny Rogers

An underrated jam “Mistletoe” by Justin Bieber

A small logo featuring a woman in a red dress, with the text "Any Mariah Carey Christmas song" written vertically next to her.



SILVER BELLS There are wireless speakers and then there is the distortion-free French-made elegance of the Phantom by Devialet (starting at \$2,795, devialet.com). It packs a deep, resonant sound that'll put the *Little Drummer Boy* on notice.



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Use the week before New Year's to take a deep breath and relax into the easy, easyful dishes in the original domestic goddess' new book, which is dedicated to simple and fuss-free delectables like chocolate-chip-cookie-dough pots and one-pot chicken tray bakes.

"when looking to nail
best dressed...
fringe factor."

Essie

My "luxeffects" were designed to
dazzle! So brush on some brilliance
and add a glamorous glimmer to
your next mani.



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luxeffects
collection
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fringe factor

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HOW TO GIVE GIFTS LIKE A PRINCESS

Ninety-nine percent of Her Royal Highness Princess Tatiana of Greece and Denmark's holiday shopping will be sourced in Greece from local craftspeople found through her organization TRIA ETC, an online marketplace that connects small makers with a global audience. Here's what she's giving this year:

For the hostess

"Right now, I'm obsessed with Greek honey."

For the dinner guests

"There's a Greek tradition called *gouri*, in which you give out charms. I often buy 20 or 30 and put them out as favours. I love the ones from Ouriana Vouraki."

For her mother-in-law

"This year, I'm getting her a bag I've been promising for a while from a Greek leather company called Callista."

For the person who has everything "I found these handmade wooden sunglasses from a great Greek brand called Zyro."

For her friends "I'm giving a very cool turtleneck designed by Sophia Kokosalaki and produced by women in communities around Greece." ▶

BURNING IT DOWN These limited-edition candles (fragranced with brown sugar, citrus and "oriental vapours" respectively) will give your gathering all the golden glow of a wood-burning fireplace minus the campfire-scented hair and that whole making-your-home-vulnerable-to-red-suited-intruders thing. (That's you, Kris Kringle.) Sapin, Liquidambar and Oliban candles, Diptyque (\$70 each, diptyqueparis.com)

SOME NOTABLE CELEBRITY SANTAS

(Also Kris Kringle's short list of contenders to play him in a movie.)



Snoop Dogg on the cover of *Rolling Stone*

Lindsay Lohan in *Mean Girls*

Matthew Perry on *Friends*

Shout-out to the Holiday Armadillo



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Gigi wears new The Falsies® Push Up Drama™ in Very Black.
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NEW YORK



GLO-O-O-O-RIA
In excelsis a dying tradition? Just 16 percent of adults go caroling, says a 2013 Pew survey, but 36 percent of that same group went when they were kids. Good King Wenceslas must be totes devastated.

FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY



How to leave a party. 1. "Accidentally" call an Uber and then dash out because it would be rude to leave your driver waiting in the cold. 2. Think up a code word (not recommended: "mayday," "operation ghost" or "let's bail") for you and the person you came with to use when you need to leave ASAP. 3. Bring a really expensive bottle of wine, make a big spectacle of opening it, volunteer to get a corkscrew from the kitchen...and then disappear out the back door.

...and how to get people to leave your party. 1. Slowly remove furniture from the room; as the night wears on, the footsore, the weary and the punch over-indulgents will have nowhere to go but home. 2. Tell everyone Drake lives in your building and his annual open house on the roof starts in 5. You'll be right behind them...not. 3. Start playing your wedding video on the big screen.



HOW NOT TO RUIN CHRISTMAS

We presented some of our thorniest family-over-the-holidays dilemmas to the *Winter Stroll* author...

Q My (new!) husband and I have four separate Christmas celebrations to go to on the 25th. How do we manage this marathon of holiday eating without offending anyone? "Short of a complete escape, my advice is to schedule four visits: late breakfast, late lunch, cocktails and dinner. Start with the parental unit you like the least and then move up the food chain so you can end with the one you like the most and linger at the end of the evening."

Q My daughter is threatening to tell her little brother that Santa Claus doesn't exist—unless I get her the latest must-have Barbie. Teddy's only three! "There are so few advantages to being a child, and believing in Santa is one. Appeal to your daughter's innate sense of goodness and allow

her to be your co-conspirator in keeping the secret alive for him.

If that doesn't work, then, yes, by all means, cave. It's just a doll!" □

ELLE Canada

DON'T MISS IT!

1.

Check out our holiday-style roundup for shoes you can dance in all night, clutches that will steal the spotlight and dresses that will light up the room.

2.

Our online gift guides have the perfect presents—big and small.

3.

ELLE Canada editors reveal their winter-beauty go-tos, from luxe oils and serums to glittery shadows and dramatic lip colours.



NEWSLETTER

Sign up at ELLECanada.com/newsletter and have your weekly hit of trending stories sent to your inbox.



Watch our beauty vlogger, Marisa Roy, play with holiday makeup. You'll be inspired to update your beauty look for winter.

[#beautyplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/ELLECanada)



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Follow us for the latest updates on fashion and beauty moments.



SNAPCHAT **ELLECanada**

Add us for a behind-the-scenes look at the ELLE Canada office.



PERISCOPE **@ELLECanada**

Find us for live video coverage of A-list events in Canada.

Chain-mail dress with velvet belt (Alexander Wang, alexanderwang.com), leather and crystal belt (Marc Jacobs, marcjacobs.com), gold leather headphones with Swarovski crystals (Dolce & Gabbana, dolcegabbana.it), hand-painted Swarovski-crystal and vermeil bracelet (Erickson Beamon, at NET-A-PORTER.com), brass-plated-gunmetal cuff (Chrishabana, chrishabanajewelry.com) and patent-leather heels (Manolo Blahnik, at Browns, brownsshoes.com). Gold bracelets (worn throughout), Kylie's own

THE BUSINESS OF BEING KYLIE

What's it like being the youngest member of the Kardashian-Jenner empire? Kylie Jenner is finally ready to tell you.

By Aliyah Shamsher *Photographs by Max Abadian*





Zircon-embroidered organza jacket (Schiaparelli Haute Couture, +33 1 76 21 62 60), mohair corset with Swarovski-crystal buttons (Rosamario, rosamario.com), silk bodysuit (La Perla, laperla.com), nylon tights (Wolford, wolfordshop.com), 18-karat-gold-plated-brass nose ring (Chrishabana, chrishabanajewelry.com) and napa-leather boots (Stuart Weitzman, stuartweitzman.ca)

Kylie Jenner hardly needs an introduction. As the youngest daughter of Kris and Caitlyn (born Bruce) Jenner, she has starred alongside her sister, Kendall, half-sisters, Kourtney, Kim and Khloé, and half-brother, Rob, on the reality show *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* since she was just 10 years old. (The show, which just premiered its 11th season, is as popular as ever.) Now 18, Jenner has spent the past two years transforming herself from reality-TV star to fashion and beauty personality. Currently, Jenner has nearly 40 million Instagram fans following her every sartorial and beauty move. (Seen a bunch of girls and boys with blue hair recently? That's because of Jenner.) But it's not just her devoted fans who obsessively track her. Whether it's her hair transformations (Mint green! Teal ombré! Bleached

can, sneaking in moments of complete privacy is a welcome reprieve from the social-media storm that typically surrounds her.

At noon, Jenner lifts the photo ban, and our live cover commences. She starts by posting a shot of her impromptu haircut and newly-bleached-blond eyebrows to Instagram. The reaction is immediate. Within seconds, comments ranging from passionate fan-girl love to intense hate flood Jenner's feed. Within the hour, the *Daily Mail* has picked up the photo as a news item. The comments continue to pour in (the post currently has 1.5 million likes and 36,000 comments), and with each subsequent image that both Jenner and ELLE Canada post come more likes, reposts and comments at dizzying speeds. Throughout the day, we all feel the love: "SHE IS SO FLAWLESS OMFG" ...and

"I'M STILL HUMAN; I CAN'T COME ACROSS SOMETHING SO HURTFUL AND JUST BRUSH IT OFF AND GO ON WITH MY DAY. IT'S REALLY HARD, AND I'M STILL GROWING UP."

blond! Jet black!) or snapshots of her daily life hanging out with friends and rapper boyfriend Tyga, every single thing Jenner does or posts online immediately becomes worldwide news.

On the morning of our live cover shoot, though, all is quiet on the social-media front. And that's because Jenner, who arrives sans makeup and in head-to-toe black, has requested a "peaceful space" while getting her hair and makeup done by long-time family friends hairstylist Jen Atkin and makeup artist Joyce Bonelli. And by "peaceful," she means absolutely no photos. None. *She can't really mean NO photos*, we all think. This is, after all, a girl who has grown up in front of a reality-TV crew and has one of the most-viewed accounts on Snapchat—ever. But we quickly learn that peace and quiet is something Jenner rarely gets, so when she

the hate: "She is hideous look at her face now." Watching this in real time is surreal, but Jenner seems unfazed by it all. Between posing like a pro in front of the camera and dancing and lip-synching to Kanye West on-set, Jenner retreats to her "peaceful space" to either FaceTime with her older sister Khloé or goof around with Atkin and Bonelli.

When I chat with Jenner over the phone a few weeks later, she has just returned home from New York, where she launched her new app, Kylie, during New York Fashion Week. After a whirlwind week of press, interviews and countless photos, she's happy to be home—or, as she calls it, her "safe place." While taking a break from creating content for her new app and decorating her recently purchased Calabasas, Calif., home, Jenner opens up about what it's like to be at the centre of so much love and hate, ▷

all those plastic-surgery rumours, her relationship with Caitlyn and how she's approaching the next decade.

I've noticed that you haven't posted anything on social media today. "Today, I said that I'm not going to Instagram and I'm not going to Snapchat because I don't even want to hear it, you know?"

I can understand that. I was actually taken aback by all the negative comments that were said about you when we did our live cover shoot. How do you deal with these types of remarks? "I mean...I'm still human; I can't come across something so hurtful and just brush it off and go on with my day. It's really hard, and I'm still growing up. Surprisingly, it wasn't as hard for me when I was younger. When I was 15 or 16, I never

But there are so many other people who get bullied way worse than me, and I wanted to share their stories. I wanted to show my fans the people who inspire me, who have been through the darkness of bullying and not only overcome it but done something better with it. And they can use my platform to share their voice. I feel like if I only shared my story about bullying, it wouldn't be as impactful as hearing other real stories that inspire me."

How did you find these stories? "I launched the campaign and created the hashtag #IAmMoreThan. After that, I just started looking through the posts. I literally just look through the hashtags and read each story. The last person I chose sent me a three-minute video to say how thankful he was that I posted his story. It's really nice, and I feel like people need to hear

"WHEN I GOT MY LIPS DONE, I LITERALLY TOLD NO ONE! I DIDN'T TELL MY BEST FRIEND OR EVEN THE GUY I LIKED AT THE TIME. I REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS NO ONE'S BUSINESS."

looked at the comments; I never Googled myself—I wouldn't go there. I didn't even know about any of these mean blogs. I know that if you don't read it, it doesn't affect you, but it's still hard."

So why keep sharing? "I always try to remind myself that it comes with the lifestyle. If you look at other celebrities who get the same sort of attention as I do, they are barely on Instagram or they don't even Snapchat—but I love to share! And I can't live my life reading all the negative comments because there is still so much positive stuff out there. There's good and bad with everything."

Is this what inspired you to create your social-media anti-bullying campaign, #IAmMoreThan, which launched in September? "I get bullied all the time over the Internet, and I feel like the bigger I get, the more love and hate comes along with it.

these stories and realize that bullying is just not okay."

I also wanted to talk about your new app, Kylie. Congratulations on reaching number one on the iTunes sales chart right now. How did the idea for the app come about?

"Thank you! I got to this point where I knew I didn't just want to go on Instagram anymore or share a short video—I wanted to do something more personal. There was always this idea floating around that my sisters and I would all have our own platforms. We had websites, but they weren't updated, so we thought of this idea to each have an app. I'm super-involved right now and spend a lot of time creating content every day. For my fans, I feel like there is just so much they don't know about me, and I'm okay with sharing."

Well, you must be used to sharing—you've been on a reality show since you were 10. ▷



Silk-tulle jumpsuit with
silver and anthracite
star embroidery (Zuhair
Murad, zuhairmurad.
com) and white-gold
and diamond ring, black-
rhodium and diamond
ring and rose-gold and
diamond ring (Casa
Reale, casareale.com).
Earrings, Kylie's own

Silk dress and elastic harness (Vionnet, vionnet.com), bronze and opal ring (Aoko Su, aokosu.com), sterling-silver oblong ring and nine-karat-gold oblong ring and nine-karat-gold tri-wrap ring (Sarah & Sebastian, sarahandsebastian.com) and gold and diamond ear cuff and stud, white-gold and diamond ring and rose-gold and diamond ring (Casa Reale, casareale.com)





Lace mask (Jennifer Behr, jenniferbehr.com), silk bodysuit (La Perla, laperla.com), nine-karat-gold tri-wrap ring and sterling-silver oblong ring (Sarah & Sebastian, sarahandsebastian.com) and 24-karat-gold-plated ring (Alice York, aliceyork.com)

FASHION CELEBRITY

Mesh bodysuit with hand-embroidered silver beads and Swarovski crystals (La Bourjoisie, labourjoisie.com) and stretch over-the-knee boots (Stuart Weitzman, stuartweitzman.ca). Fashion direction, Juliana Schiavinatto; hair, Jen Atkin (The Wall Group); makeup, Joyce Bonelli (DLMLA); manicure, Tom Bachik (Cloutier Remix); art direction, Brittany Eccles



“Well, yes and no. When I first started on the show, I didn’t want anyone to know who my friends were and you never saw any of them onscreen with me. I always wanted to keep my family life on the show, and when it came to me hanging out with my friends and doing, you know, teenage stuff, I wanted to keep that private—and I still do. And with any relationships—I don’t think I will ever be super-public about my relationships.”

But it seems like you’ve been sharing a bit more of your personal life with fans. [After she turned 18, Jenner went public about her relationship with 25-year-old rapper Tyga.] “That has been pretty organic. But I do think that if you let people in too deep, it gets hard—your fans get too invested, and then they know when you break up and make up. I don’t want people to know

eyebrow lift, I got my boobs done, this and that. So I wanted to come out and say that this is crazy and I only got my lips done. I don’t think people realize that I just turned 18. There’s no way my mom or any doctor would let me go under the knife like that—that’s just so crazy!” [Laughs]

So, in the end, what made you want to come clean? “I don’t want to be a bad role model. I don’t want my fans to think they have to get lip fillers or look like me in any way. I wanted to let them know that it was always an insecurity of mine and I did it strictly for me.”

You use the term “role model”—how has this transition been for you, realizing that young girls and boys look up to you? “When I see my fans and they have blue hair or dress like me, it’s really cool and makes me feel good. But I don’t want them to think they have to

“BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS OPEN AND HONEST NOW WITH CAITLYN, WE ACTUALLY SPEND A LOT MORE TIME TOGETHER. SHE’S THE SAME PERSON—SHE JUST LOOKS DIFFERENT.”

every time we fight or break up, so I’d rather keep some things private.”

One of the topics you’ve been more open to talking about is plastic surgery. You recently caused a media storm when you revealed that you got your lips done. [Laughs] “When I got my lips done, I literally told no one! I didn’t tell my best friend or even the guy I liked at the time. I really thought it was no one’s business. My mom was super-against it, but I begged her and begged her and she finally let me do it. After I did them, I thought it was so obvious that I didn’t have to say anything. I never denied it because I always told my publicist ‘no lip questions,’ so no one ever asked me. I never said I got them done, but I never denied it either. But people thought I was such a liar!”

And then the rumours just kept on coming.... “Yeah, then people were saying I got my chin reconstructed, that I got a nose job, an

look like me! I want to inspire them to be themselves and not listen to anybody else.”

One of your role models has always been your dad, Caitlyn Jenner—how has your relationship with her changed this year? “I just find that because everything is open and honest now, we actually spend a lot more time together. It was really hard for me in the beginning, but now it’s much easier. It’s ‘she’ now, but it was ‘he’ who always had this secret. Now she’s just free and way happier, and it makes me feel more comfortable. It’s cool. She’s the same person—she just looks different.”

When you think of what’s to come, what do you see yourself doing? “I remember telling my mom a year ago that I wanted to do some acting, and she said, ‘Kylie you’re a businesswoman.’ Now I feel like I’m getting there. I don’t know, I just love doing new things...I’m a mini-businesswoman!” □

DISCOVER YOUR DARK SIDE





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*m*y mom and I have always been close.

Years ago Mom visited a psychic, who told her that in a past life she and I were sisters—she was the

of her life, my mom, at the age of 45, sought answers. A year later, she was diagnosed with Asperger's. I didn't know what it was. And I didn't know what to say (a first in our relationship). But I remember

THE UNEXPECTED GIFT

How Asperger's syndrome is redefining one mother-daughter relationship—for the better. BY BRIANNE HOGAN

impish younger sister and I the older, more responsible one. I can buy that. Throughout my life, I have often felt like my mom's big sister. Schooling her in acceptable social behaviour (like making small talk and eye contact) was normal for me growing up. I knew my relationship with my mom was unique, but I didn't know just how different it was until the end of my senior year at university in New York, when Mom called from Toronto to tell me she had Asperger's.

Wondering why she had felt misunderstood and lost for most

hearing this tremendous sense of relief in her voice—like a weight had been lifted from her soul—that instantly soothed me. Finally, I said to her, "That explains a lot."

I soon learned that "Aspies"—a nickname for those who have been diagnosed with the neurological disorder—are generally people who don't understand social cues and are easily overwhelmed by outside stimuli. In 2013, the name of the condition was changed to autism spectrum disorder, but Mom and many other Aspies prefer the older term ▷

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ELLE RELATIONSHIP

because the diagnosis is considered much more than a label; it's a source of pride because it means that they have been surviving in a world that, for them, seems chaotic and sometimes uninviting.

There are all sorts of situations you grow up with that start to seem askew as you get older. During my childhood, my dad shouldered the financial responsibility of our family while I handled the emotional stuff. Like most Aspies, Mom couldn't maintain a job or many friendships, so it was up to me—my parents' only child—to tell her when someone was being sarcastic or remind her that she couldn't always behave however she wanted whenever she wanted—like the time she lost control of her anxiety and lashed out at me in a crowded bookstore. "Those people now think you're a bad mom when you're really a good mom!" I told her.

And she is a good mom. "Always speak your mind and be yourself," she'd say to me. Mom can't really avoid being blunt (a common characteristic of her disorder), but her directness and audaciously authentic demeanour have made me a straight shooter. I am confident about asking for a raise and expressing my feelings. Friends, boyfriends and bosses always know where they stand with me because I'm not afraid to voice my desires—or displeasure. (Although, over the years, I have also learned that you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.)

In spite of her own lone-wolf tendencies, Mom encouraged me to attend sleep-away camp, join sports teams and, when I was older, travel the world. My passport and weekends are full because of her selfless love. She also insisted I follow my dreams and do what I love, which helped me flourish as a writer. Because



The writer with her mother, Kim, in 2009

Mom struggles to find her passion in life, she didn't want the same for me. Bedtime kisses were followed by the mantra "Find something that makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning." For me, that is being able to write and express myself creatively on a daily basis. So, after fighting to find the "happy" in my full-time editorial job, I remembered Mom's wise words and quit to go freelance two years ago. It was the best decision I could have made for myself.

My mom recently told me that she needs me in her life to show her "how to be a real person." But I feel the same way about her. And it's that innate self-awareness of hers that inspires me most. She might still have an "Aspie" moment or two—like repeating herself because she's worried she's not being understood or when she has trouble recognizing sarcasm ("Mom, I'm joking!")—but she's intent on learning from these misinterpretations while waving her Aspie flag proudly.

Mom works daily at evolving into the best person she can be, including landing a dog-walking gig, practising mindful meditation and writing in a journal about her experience with Asperger's. She has taught me humility and grace and what it's like to love someone for who they are—not for who you want them to be.

Oscar Wilde once wrote "All women become their mothers; that is their tragedy." I have to disagree with Mr. Wilde just this once, though—I think it would be my greatest strength. □



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GUIDE

2015



FOR THE GLOBETROTTER WHO SEEKS ADVENTURE

1. Enamel mug, W&P for J.Crew (\$12, jcrew.com). 2. Microfibre yoga mat, Kamuka (\$117.27, kamuka.com.au). 3. Cork globe, CB2 (\$169, cb2.com). 4. Cotton-jacquard jacket, Zara (\$89.90, zara.com). 5. Full Moon Dust Collection powder supplements, Moon Juice (\$443 for six 4 oz. jars, moonjuiceshop.com).

6. L'Occitane en Provence & Pierre Hermé Jasmin-Immortelle-Neroli Eau de Toilette Spray (\$65 for 75 mL, loccitane.com). 7. Get a Room! gift card for Mr & Mrs Smith by Roksanda (from \$100, smithhotels.com). 8. 2016 City Guides Collection (including four new cities: Chicago, Bangkok, Prague and Rome), Louis Vuitton (\$825 for a set of 15, louisvuitton.com).

9. Resin bangles, Michael Kors (\$245 each, michaelkors.com).

10. Titanium flask, Snow Peak (\$178, at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca). 11. Tory Burch Lip Color Set (\$79, at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com). 12. Cotton bag, Aldo (\$70, aldoshoes.com).

13. Suede booties, Aquazzura (\$1,050, at theseptember.com). □

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ELLE GIFT GUIDE



FOR THE GLAMAZON WHO CAN'T GET ENOUGH SPARKLE



1. Women's leather loafers, Boss (\$525, hugoboss.com). 2. 18-karat-gold "Oyster Perpetual Lady-Datejust 28" watch, Rolex (\$30,850, rolex.com). 3. Christian Louboutin Lip Colour (\$115 each, christianlouboutin.com). 4. Polyester-blend skirt, Old Navy (\$37.94, oldnavy.ca). 5. Glass perfume bottle, Winners (\$34.99, winners.ca). 6. 18-karat-gold and ceramic cuff, Tiffany & Co. (\$11,200, tiffany.ca). 7. Raw shell and copper clutch, Nathalie Trad (\$1,448, at fivestoryny.com). 8. Polyester, steel, brass and glass necklace, Aldo (\$45, aldoshoes.com). 9. Metal sunglasses, Dior (\$585, dior.com). 10. Chanel Sublimage L'Extrait Intensive Recovery Treatment (\$675, chanel.ca). 11. "Heritage" crystal tumblers, Waterford (\$340 for a set of six, waterford.com). 12. Guerlain Crème de Beauté Cleansing Cream (\$82, guerlain.com/ca). ▶

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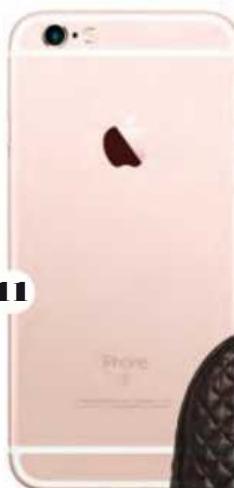
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**FOR THE
TRENDSETTER
IN YOUR
#SQUAD**



LOVE

Y

S

L



1. Georgia May Jagger silk-twist squares, Mulberry (\$150 each, mulberry.com). 2. Leather jacket with movable pins, Coach (\$2,295, coach.com). 3. Cotton-jersey sports bra and briefs, First Base (\$53.64 and \$31.82, thisisfirstbase.com). 4. Shu Uemura x Maison Kitsuné Laque Sparklers in Plum Shimmer, Fleur Shine and Persimmon Glow (\$35 each, shuuemura.ca). 5. Leather and zinc-alloy clutch, BCBGMAXAZRIA (\$373, bcbg.com). 6. Metal and plastic watch, Swatch (\$70, swatch.com). 7. Oxidized-silver and gold-tone-brass and crystal pin set, Saint Laurent (\$1,315.13, ysl.com). 8. Marc Jacobs Eau de Parfum Spray (\$115 for 50 mL, at Sephora, sephora.ca). 9. Faux-fur sweater, Joe Fresh (\$39, joefresh.com). 10. Nylon backpack, MZ Wallace (\$344.07, at Saks Fifth Avenue, saksfifthavenue.com). 11. Rose-gold-tone iPhone 6s, Apple (from \$899, apple.ca). 12. Plated-metal rings, Swarovski (\$169 for a set of three, swarovski.com). 13. Leather card case, Diane von Furstenberg (\$60, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com).>



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FOR THE ECCENTRIC WHO IS YOUNG AT HEART

1. *Mitford at the Fashion Zoo* by Donald Robertson (\$15.15, at amazon.ca).

2. Mink and leather sneakers, Joshua Sanders (\$755.32, at modaoperandi.com).

3. PhunkeeDuck personal transportation device (\$1,800, at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com).

4. Viscose T-shirt, H&M (\$19.99, hm.com).

5. *Red White and Blue* by Greg Lotus print (from \$1,560, at These Fine Walls, thesefinewalls.com).

6. Porcelain plates, Kate Spade New York (\$40 for a set of four, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com).

7. Leather tote, Fendi (\$1,605, at matchesfashion.com).

8. Champagne gummies, Squish (\$12, squishcandies.com).

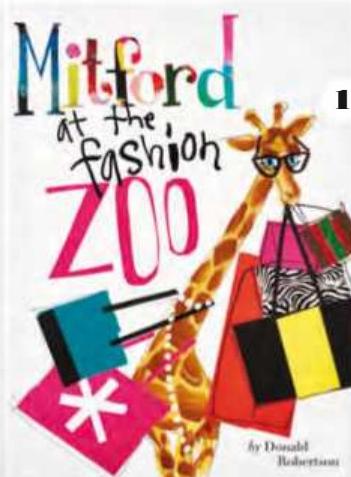
9. Limited-edition aluminum bracelets, David Yurman (\$290 each, davideyurman.com).

10. Drybar Tress Press Digital Styling Iron (\$189, at Sephora, sephora.ca).

11. Benefit Get Your Party On! makeup set (\$55, at Sephora, sephora.ca).

12. Silicone iPhone 6 case, Moschino (\$123, at NET-A-PORTER.com).

13. Metal and enamel pin, Rose Hound Apparel (\$6, rosehoundapparel.com). ▷



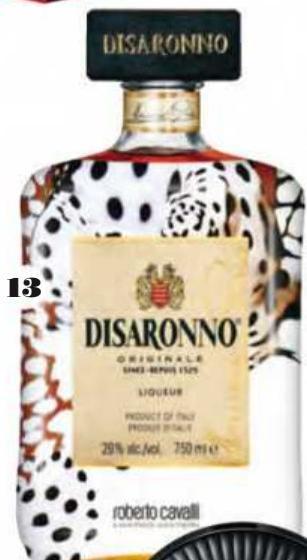
A close-up portrait of a woman with long, straight, reddish-brown hair. She has blue eyes and is wearing a dark red, short-sleeved top. Her expression is weary or annoyed, with her mouth slightly open and her eyebrows raised. A single white tissue is held up in front of her chest, partially obscuring her torso.

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1. Gisele Bündchen collectors edition (\$913, taschen.com). 2. Viktor & Rolf Limited-Edition Spicebomb Eau de Toilette Spray (\$105 for 90 mL, at Sephora, sephora.ca). 3. Wool-blend sweater, Reiss (\$240, at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com). 4. Leather rugby balls, Chanel (by special order, chanel.com). 5. Sterling-silver and obsidian bracelet, Thomas Sabo (\$189, including personalized engraving, thomassabo.com). 6. Leather and nylon gym bag, WANT Les Essentiels de la Vie (\$675, wantlesessentiels.com). 7. Sterling-silver cufflinks, Birks (\$425, maisonbirks.com). 8. Bourbon-scented candle, Marshalls (\$12.99, marshallscanada.ca). 9. Clarisonic x Keith Haring Cleansing Device (\$180 each, from left: "Pop" and "Love" at clarisonic.ca; "Dance" at Sephora, sephora.ca). 10. "Tubular X" textile and synthetic-nubuck shoes, Adidas (\$140, adidas.ca). 11. Acetate, metal and 24-karat-gold-plated sunglasses, Krewe du Optic (\$268, kreweduoptic.com). 12. Stainless-steel and aluminum watch (\$1,050, movado.com). 13. Limited-Edition Roberto Cavalli Disaronno (\$29.95, at liquor stores across Canada). ▶



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ELLE GIFT GUIDE

The ultimate fashion-and-tech collab has arrived. Leather and stainless-steel 38 mm "Double Tour" watch, Apple Watch Hermès (\$1,700, apple.ca)



It may not be able to do the dishes, but this *Star Wars* robot responds to voice commands and is app-enabled. Droid, Sphero (\$189.99, at Best Buy, bestbuy.ca)



It's never too late to learn to fly. DJI Phantom 3 Advanced Camera Drone (\$1,285, at dji.com)



Take your training to the next level with Nike Air Zoom Fit Agility 2 shoes (\$165, nike.com).



FOR THE #TECHGURU WHO'S ALWAYS IN UPDATE MODE

Shine bright like a diamond thanks to Philips Sonicare DiamondClean Amethyst Edition electric toothbrush (\$230, philips.ca).



Up your glam factor with these gold Beats by Dr. Dre wireless headphones; they give you up to nine metres of hands-free mobility. Multi-tasking just got a lot easier. (\$329.95, ca.beatsbydre.com)



Add a little retro style to your media room with this cardboard iPad stand by Cardboard Safari (\$40, cardboardsafari.com).



Samsung's thinnest tablet clocks in at 5.6 mm. Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 (from \$499, at Staples, staples.ca)



Who said wearable tech has to look like something from a sci-fi movie? Leather USB tassel, Belkin (\$46, belkin.com)



Bring the party everywhere you go with the B&O Play by Bang & Olufsen BeoPlay A2 portable speaker (\$499, at amazon.ca).



Get the adrenalin junkie on your list the perfect travel buddy. GoPro Hero+ LCD camcorder with built-in Wi-Fi and bluetooth (\$379.95, at chapters.indigo.ca) ▶

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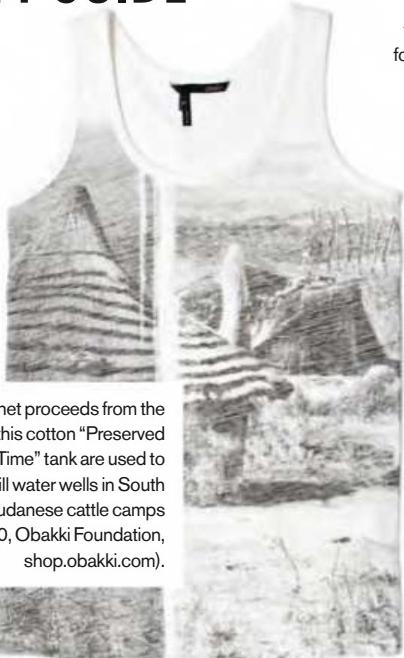
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ELLE GIFT GUIDE



All net proceeds from the sale of this cotton "Preserved in Time" tank are used to drill water wells in South Sudanese cattle camps (\$180, Obakki Foundation, shop.obakki.com).

For each brass, gold and Maasai Mara quartz necklace sold, Me to We provides school supplies for children in a Free the Children community around the world (\$100, at shop.metowe.com).



For every purchase of these metal sunglasses, the TOMS One for One program will help provide vision care, including prescription glasses, surgery or medical services, to someone in need (\$179, toms.ca).

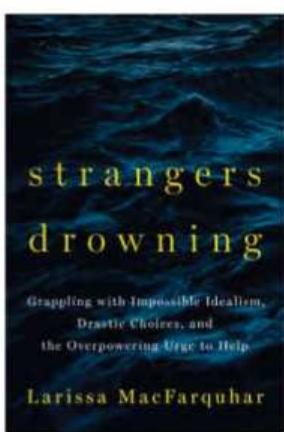


Made by Peru-based Pais Textil, these pima-cotton and leather-lined clutches support local craftspeople who use traditional methods of fabrication to make each handcrafted piece (\$150, at farandwidecollective.ca). For more on Far & Wide Collective, turn to page 174.



You can be pretty and philanthropic in pink when you buy this limited-edition duo: M.A.C Miley Cyrus Viva Glam Lipstick and Lipglass (\$20 and \$18, maccosmetics.com). Every dollar goes toward helping people who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

FOR THE DO-GOODER WHO WANTS TO GIVE BACK



EXTRA-GOOD SAMARITANS The book title (and jacket) doesn't seem very uplifting, but stay with us: This is actually a collection of fascinating stories about real-life overachieving do-gooders—how they live their lives and what ultimately motivates them to give back in extreme ways (like donating a kidney to a stranger or starting a leprosy colony in India). *New Yorker* writer Larissa MacFarquhar challenges us all to think about how (and how much) we can all personally contribute to make a better world. *Strangers Drowning: Grappling With Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Overpowering Urge to Help* (\$35.95, at chapters.indigo.ca) □



Niche Swedish fragrance house Byredo created this new floral in honour of the tireless Red Cross nurses of the First World War. Rose of No Man's Land Eau de Toilette Spray (\$174 for 50 mL, byredo.com)



Want to make the world a better place? So does Alexander Wang. Half the retail price of his Do Something line will help dosomething.org do what they do best: effect social change through youth programs (\$60.78, alexanderwang.com).



Help a child living in extreme poverty get to school and do chores (and have fun!) with the gift of a bicycle—it's one of dozens of UNICEF Canada's "Survival Gifts" (\$196, shop.unicef.ca).

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Can financial therapy help you deal with money stress?
BY CHRISTINA REYNOLDS

THE MONEY THERAPIST



K

risty Archuleta has a job title that didn't exist 10 years ago: She's a financial therapist. Officially, she's a licensed marriage and family therapist *and* an associate professor of personal financial planning at Kansas State University. "I integrate emotion and behaviour into financial decision making," she says of the new psychological specialty, which she likens to the field of sex therapy. "As a therapist, you would never dream of working with a couple on intimacy issues without having some training in sex therapy, and the issues are somewhat parallel with money," she says. "It can be trust issues; it can be communication issues." ELLE Canada spoke with Archuleta about what we can learn about ourselves—and our finances—by taking a closer look at our relationship with money.



Do most of us need to change our attitude about money? “Everybody has beliefs and attitudes about money, but we’re not always aware of them. So, personal beliefs like ‘I believe that money can be used for good’ or ‘I believe that money is the root of evil’ are going to affect how you manage

your money. Whether you’re able to change those beliefs or not is one thing, but the way you approach a financial behaviour can be changed through recognizing what those beliefs are.”

So is the first step asking “What do I know about my financial beliefs?”

“Yes, exactly. [Financial psychologists] Drs. Ted Klontz and Brad Klontz say ‘Think about your earliest money memory. How has that contributed to what you believe about money now?’ And people are very surprised at that and say ‘Huh, you know what? The very first memory of money that I have really has had a profound impact on how I think of money now.’ A lot of these memories are very ingrained. They’re created from our families and from the communities that we grew up in, and they stay with us into adulthood.”

What was your first money memory, and how has it affected you? “I remember my parents taking me to a bank to set up a savings account. I’m guessing I was in second or third grade. Because I started out with a savings account, I think that’s something that has always been important to me: having that savings component and being really ultra-responsible with my money.”

So once someone has looked back on money memories, how can he or she move forward?

“The next step is to look at your goals. What are some really concrete things that you can do to reach your money goals? So if, say, you start opening your mail—and I’ve had clients who did not open their mail because they were avoiding bills—and deal with it by adding \$10 to your next credit-card payment, you start to get over the fear of what’s coming in and what’s going out. You know what to expect, and you are physically doing something different from what you’ve done

before. You’re creating a different result. So these seemingly ‘tiny’ things, for some people, can be huge.”

How do you help couples deal with money issues? “One research study found that money may not necessarily be the most-fought-about topic, but when it is fought about, it’s the most-intensely-fought-about topic.

So people are really stressed about this. For the past couple of years, the American Psychological Association has done a survey of the U.S. population and found that money is the number-one stressor for Americans. If couples have had different experiences with money, they can clash on how to solve issues around it and that can create a lot of stress and anxiety. So with couples, I ask ‘What did you experience with your family about money? How did you develop your money beliefs?’ When each person begins to understand where the other is coming from, it is easier for them to be empathetic, like ‘Now I know why you do what you do. What can we do together to overcome that?’ What are they going to do together to move forward? I work on communication and trust building, but I also move beyond that with money-management skills that I can help them implement: Let’s track your expenses, let’s look at what your assets are, let’s look at what your debts are, let’s build a budget. I really empower that couple, or the individual, with the ability to make changes and reach their goal.”

There aren’t a lot of financial therapists yet—there is only one Canadian listed with the Financial Therapy Association. What other help do you recommend? “Find a financial planner who might collaborate with a mental-health professional and meet with them together. Or work out your budget with a financial planner and bring that to a psychologist.” □

GOING *for* BAROQUE



*What, exactly, is behind our love of all things
opulent and over-the-top?* BY GUY SADDY

i am admiring a hamburger. Well, a photo of one. And it is literally covered in gold.

The creator of this spectacular sandwich is the rather charmless-sounding Honky Tonk diner. Located in London, it's "an American-inspired restaurant"—albeit with a swisher accent and, one assumes, prices that would be more at home in Dubai, if not an alternative universe. But a quick review of its other (far more reasonable) menu items reveals the "Glamburger"—yes, that's what it's called—for what it truly is.

Served, no doubt, with a liberal sprinkling of chutzpah and a side order of P.T. Barnum-style savvy, the Glamburger

was created as a promotional tool by the restaurant last year. It was laughable in its excess, a gourmand's nightmare and a glutton's wet dream. But it was also the most expensive hamburger in the world, which is why it was made and why it made headlines.

Like most hamburgers, it consisted primarily of a ground-meat patty slathered in condiments and cleverly encased between two halves of a single bun. Unlike most, this hamburger cost \$2,250 (not including tip).

Here's what you got: 227 grams of Kobe wagyu beef (seasoned with Himalayan salt), 57 grams of New Zealand venison, black-truffle brie (found in the centre of the patty,

*Opulence sends a message. Without uttering a word, it tells others
“I’ve arrived—now fetch my bags.”*

it produces a “liquid pocket” when cooked), Canadian lobster poached in Iranian saffron, maple-syrup-coated bacon, a dollop of beluga caviar and a hickory-smoked duck egg. All of it was topped off with a bun that was covered in edible gold leaf.

It was, in a word, opulent.

Opulence—best defined as the ostentatious display of wealth—is all around us. Witness the irredeemably vulgar launch of yet another Trump Tower, skyline-altering testaments to questionable taste and ego run amok. Or tune in to the high-pitched 12-cylinder roar of a passing Ferrari F12berlinetta, which can be yours for the low, low price of only \$430,000 plus your first-born male child. Feeling spendy? Why not book the Jewel Suite at the Lotte New York Palace. For \$32,500 a night, you can stretch out in your 465-square-metre room, complete with private elevator, grand piano and *maitre d’être* service (whatever that entails).

Magazines like *Robb Report* keep us up to date with breaking news from the yacht front, while *Cigar Aficionado* does its level best to advise on the most sublime way to acquire throat cancer. What’s in your wallet? The American Express Centurion Card, commonly known as the “Black Card,” has a \$5,000 initiation fee, a \$2,500 annual fee and a reported \$250,000 yearly spending requirement. (All in all, a small sum to pay to look suave when you hear the phrase “We don’t take AmEx” over and over again.) Of course, you’ll need a decent purse in which to lug around that Black Card and its weighty karma. How about a classic Hermès Birkin? You can score one made from Himalayan crocodile for only \$560,000—one of the most expensive handbags ever produced. A particularly swank function calls for an equally posh dress. May we suggest a cute little haute-couture number from British designer Scott Henshall? Back in 2004, Henshall created a dress, worn by actress Samantha Mumba to the *Spiderman II* premiere, that was said to cost \$11.7 million. Haute damn!

Today, it seems that opulence is more prevalent than it has ever been before. Why? Opulence sends a message. Without uttering a word, it tells others “I’ve arrived—now fetch my bags.” But none of this is new.

Lavish displays of wealth and consumption have been part of human history since the pharaohs trimmed their sarcophagi in gold. Despite Islamic doctrine forbidding the decoration of graves, the gleaming white marble

mausoleum known as the Taj Mahal was hardly designed with modesty in mind. The baroque era, with its excessive ornamentation and addiction to gold leaf, gave us such gems as St. John’s Co-Cathedral in Malta, an homage to God that is so full of pomp that even He would describe it as overkill. In 1890s America, the aptly named “Gilded Age”—the term was coined by Mark Twain, who harboured a special disdain for excess—saw an explosion of new wealth, and names like Astor, Vanderbilt, Rockefeller and Hearst became synonymous with huge manor-like estates. In the 1950s and ’60s, Liberace, the celebrated pianist/showman, captivated audiences with shockingly *outré* costumes and a campy flamboyance that makes Elton John look introverted by comparison. (Closeted throughout his life, he eventually died of AIDS-related complications; Liberace was petrified of being outed, which serves to remind us that the shiny veneer of opulence is sometimes meant to disguise the torment that flows underneath.)

More recently, the figurative offspring of these conspicuous characters include anyone from arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, who during the 1980s would spend about \$325,000 a day, to Pablo Escobar, the cocaine drug lord who, before he was killed, had amassed a fortune that placed him seventh on the *Forbes* list of the world’s wealthiest people. Among his possessions was a solid gold and diamond-encrusted Rolex, a zoo featuring hippos, giraffes, zebras and elephants and an extensive art collection populated with original works by Dalí, Picasso and Botero. With rap now less a political statement and more a commercial grind, the gold-chain excesses of the 1980s seem quaint—at least when compared to hip-hop power couple Jay-Z and Beyoncé (combined net worth: \$1.3 billion), who flaunt their wealth with their own private jet, extravagant rented yachts, homes in New York, the Hamptons and L.A. and, just for kicks, the music-streaming service Tidal.

There is a pattern here, of sorts. Interestingly, it’s often not the Astors, Vanderbilts, Rockefellers or Hearsts anymore who feel driven to parade their opulent tastes; today, their excesses rarely make the BuzzFeed rounds. Instead, it seems as if the worst offenders are those who have very recently come into money. Through their conspicuous over-consumption, are they perhaps attempting to purchase validation along with that \$800,000 Bulgari Magsonic Sonnerie Tourbillon timepiece?

When it comes to over-the-top extravagance, it would be hard to best Florida-based time-share mogul David ▷

and Jackie Siegel, subjects of the documentary *The Queen of Versailles* (2012). The Siegels live an extraordinarily lavish life that includes building a replica of the famous Palace of Versailles—although with an indoor roller rink and bowling alley, it certainly isn't an exact replica. Begun in 2004, construction of the 8,360-square-metre “monument to bad taste,” as one critic called it, was halted after the 2008 market crash devastated the Siegels’ bottom line. At one point, Versailles was in foreclosure; it was listed at \$130 million, and there were no takers.

Collective delight at their downfall was short-lived. The Siegels’ fortunes have since revived and, after a four-year hiatus, they’ve resumed construction on Versailles—and once again exhibited the same kind of hubris that factored into their decision to create it in the first place. When asked why they wanted to start the project, David Siegel answered simply, “Because we can.” Although not quite “Let them eat cake,” the parallel is undeniable.

However off-putting this may be, there is something undeniably captivating about opulence and those who flaunt their wealth. It’s the same voyeuristic impulse that draws us to shows like *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, *World’s Most Expensive Homes* and *House Hunters International*. We are pulled almost magnetically toward the outrageous, the extreme. Or to the exceptional—whether exceptionally good or not so good.

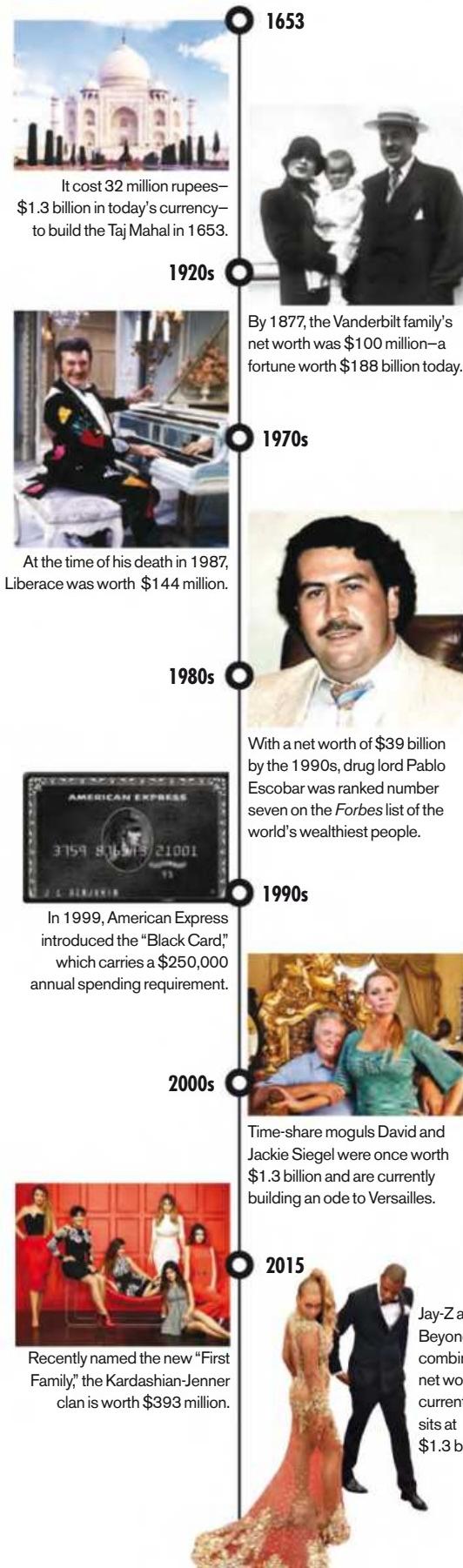
In a memorable *New Yorker* article, writer Adam Gopnik, in trying to justify the caricature of sex that Marilyn Monroe had become, hit upon a much larger truth. “To be very rich or very lovely or very good is inherently interesting, since veryness of any kind is not part of dailyness,” he wrote. “Unhot is this everyday-existence thing, and so we continue to celebrate that same handful who were truly great, or at least immensely curvy, and, as long as we do, the smallest drop of their sweat has value.”

Sweat and curves aside, the same could be said about those who push boundaries of opulence, regardless of outcome. We are intrigued by the designers of impossibly tall buildings like the Burj Khalifa and owners of yachts large enough to double as convention centres. From the enduring mystique of the Hope Diamond to the odd fascination with Fabergé eggs and England’s crown jewels, worldly manifestations of otherworldly wealth are more intriguing than repellent. Even the construction of the Floridian Versailles, such a laughably obscene ode to the Siegels’ bloated self-regard, is, at least, interesting...in a freak-show sort of way. Bigger is not always better, but it is always big, and very few things are.

So why opulence? Because it is shinier. Because it is bolder. Because its exuberance and extravagance scratch at the limits of human achievement. Because it is *very*.

Mainly, though, because we can. □

AN EVOLUTION OF OPULENCE



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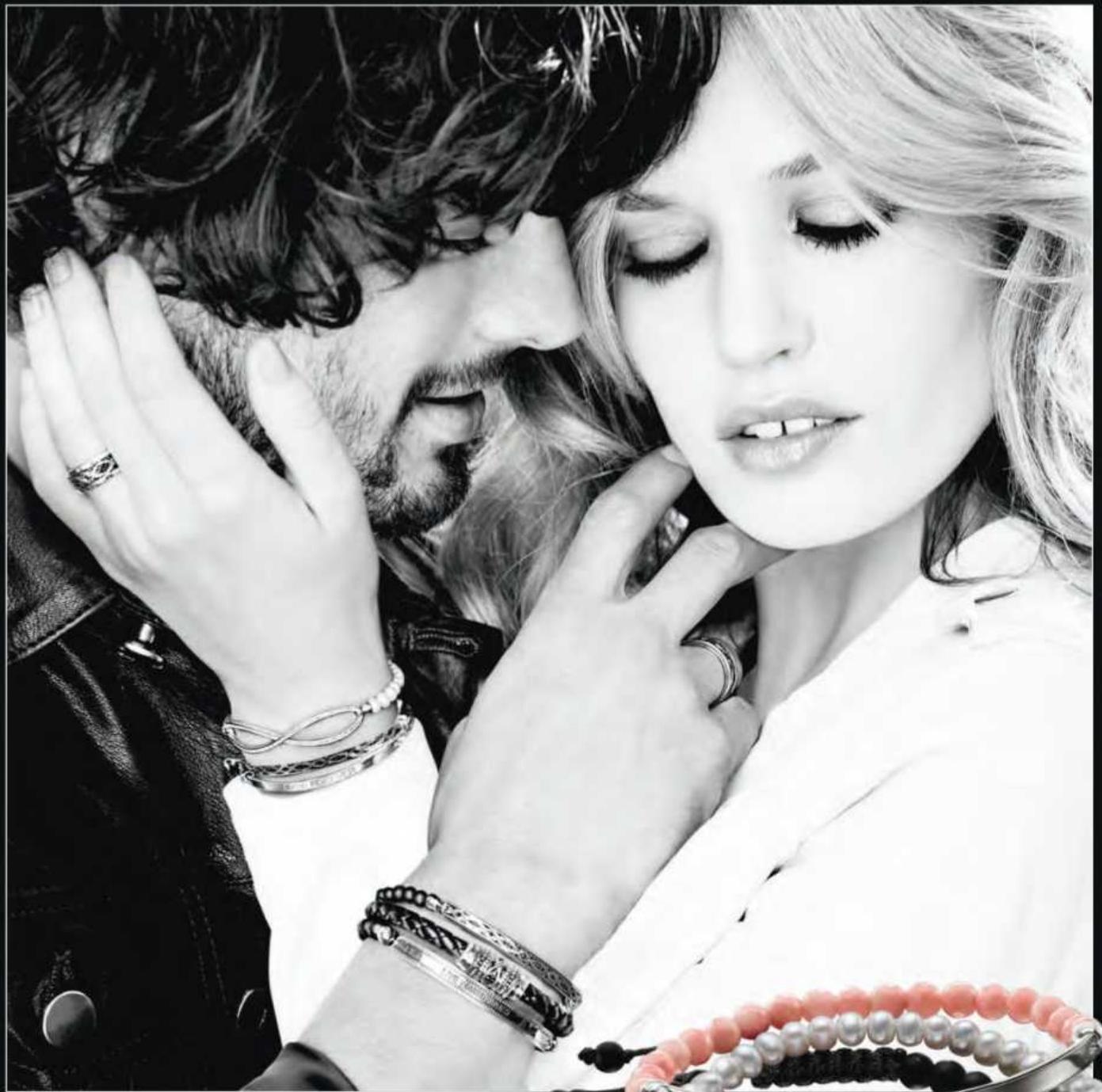
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DECEMBER 2015

ELLE FASHION



THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

This season's decadent mood
is fit for a queen.

OWEN BRUCE; COTTON AND SILK DRESS, BRASS ROSE HAIR CLIP AND BRASS BOV HAIR CLIP WORN ON NECKLACE (DOLCE & GABBANA),
GOLD-TONE METAL CHOKER (ANVIN) AND ENAMEL AND GOLD-TONE METAL EARRINGS (CAROLE ALENBAUM VINTAGE COLLECTION)

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

*This season's opulent fabrics, luxe embellishments
and ornate accessories evoke a modern fairy tale.*

Fashion direction by Juliana Schiavinatto Photographs by Owen Bruce Art direction by Denis Desro

Fil-coupe trapeze dress and tie-front cape (Erdem), rhinestone, crystal and metal choker and rhinestone and agate beaded choker (Rita Tesolin) and studded-leather lace-up boots (Altuzarra)



Wool jacket and silk top and pants (Dries Van Noten), gold-tone-metal choker with chains (Lanvin), rhinestone, crystal and gold-tone-metal bib necklace and precious-gemstone and gold-plated sterling-silver double-finger flower ring (Rita Tesolin) and carnelian, glass and gold-tone-metal earrings, glass and gold-tone-metal ring, glass-cabochon and gold-tone-metal ring and citrine-crystal and silver ring (Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection)



Wool and polyamide top and wool skirt (Mary Katrantzou),
Lurex-jacquard peacoat with nailhead and jet-stone
embroidery and calf-hair-printed collar (Marc Jacobs),
crystal and gold-tone-metal cascade earrings, cubic-
zirconia and sterling-silver flower-blossom ring, rhinestone,
stone-cabochon and pewter ring and acrylic ring with
crystal design (Rita Tesolin) and gold-tone-metal brooch
(Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection)



Ruffled-gauze and ostrich-feather dress (Marchesa), patchwork mink vest (Anna Sui) and crystal, rhinestone and glass-pearl copper-tone earrings, rhinestone and acrylic-cabochon silver-tone-metal ring and crystal and gold-tone-metal ring (Rita Tesolin)





Lamé shirt and trousers, sheepskin fur vest, gold-tone-metal knotted chain necklace and gold-tone-metal choker with chains (Lanvin) and crystal and gold-tone-metal necklace and glass-cabochon and gold-tone-metal earrings (Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection)





Lace dress, organza skirt and glass-pearl and metal necklace (Chanel) and acrylic and rhinestone brass-metal earrings, crystal and gold-tone-metal ring and cubic-zirconia and sterling-silver ring (Rita Tesolin)



Crepe-de-Chine-jacquard dress (Erdem), silk and brass necklace (Dries Van Noten) and crystal and gold-tone-metal earrings (Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection)

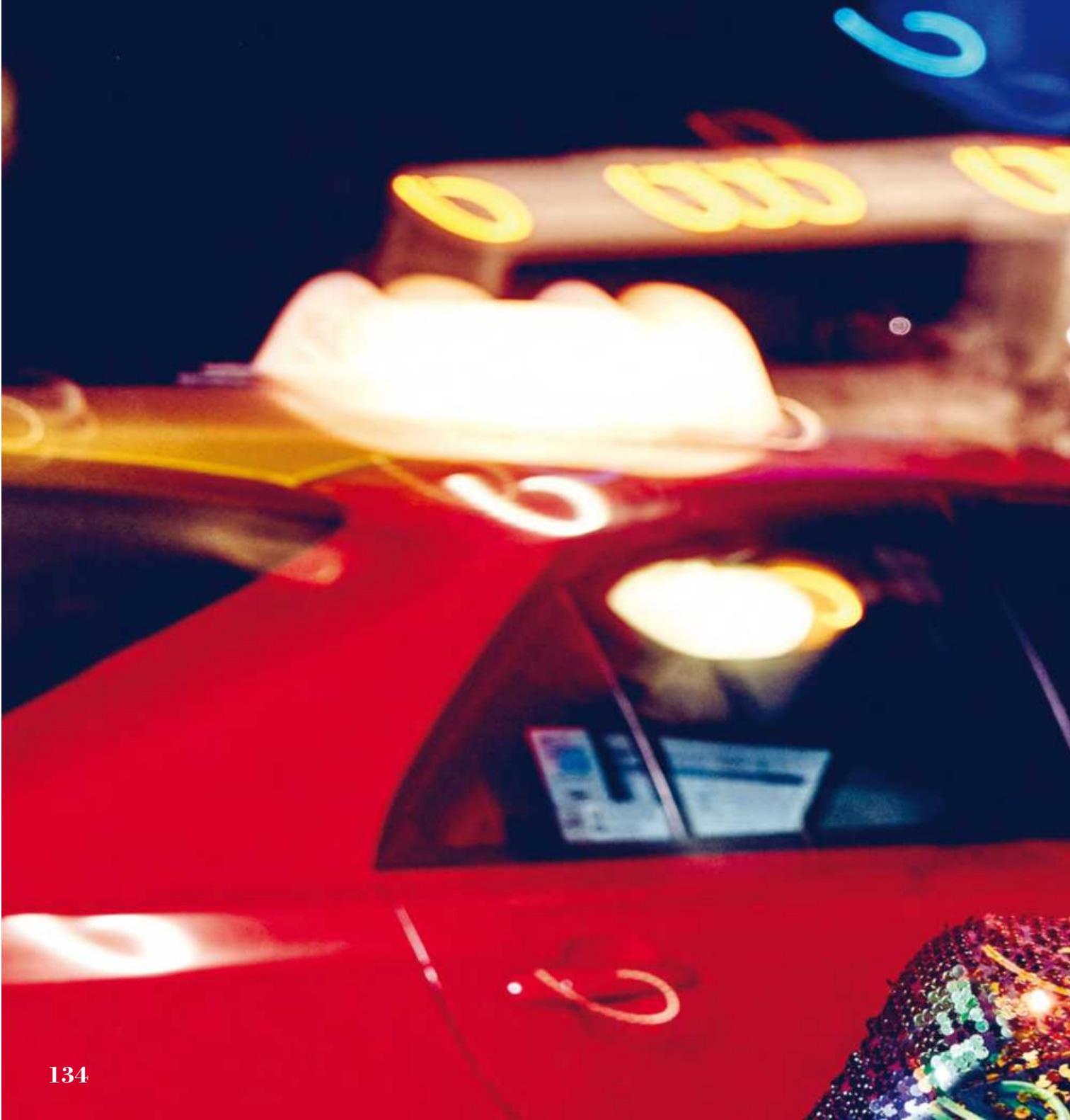


Tibetan-braid devore dress and studded-leather knee-high lace-up boots (Altuzarra), fox-fur jacket (Anna Sui), enamel and gold-tone-metal earrings, glass and gold-tone-metal ring, glass-cabochon and gold-tone-metal ring and citrine-crystal and silver ring (Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection) and precious-gemstone and gold-plated-silver double-finger flower ring, crystal and gold-tone-metal ring, cubic-zirconia and sterling-silver flower-blossom ring and rhinestone and crystal silver-tone-metal ring (Rita Tesolin). For details, see Shopping Guide. Model, Kristin Zakala (foliomontreal.com); hair & makeup, Susana Hong (P1M.ca/TRESemme); fashion assistant, Cherry Wang; photographer's assistant, Paolo Cristante; digital technician, David Kerr

F R I D A Y N I G H T L I G H T S

Pops of colour, high-gloss finishes and not-so-subtle sequins. Now's your time to shine.

Fashion direction by Juliana Schiavinatto Photographs by Max Abadian Art direction by Brittany Eccles





Viscose-jersey dress with
embroidered sequins (Preen Line),
sheepskin purse (Moschino) and
gold-plated rings (DANNIJO)

Voile-Lurex shirt and pleated skirt
(Gucci), 10-karat-gold earrings (Alexis
Bittar), gold-plated cuff (DANNIJO),
brass bow cuff (Jennifer Fisher) and
metallic-leather shoes (Miu Miu)





Open-back top with copper
eyelets and mirror-leather skirt
(Mugler), gold-plated sterling-
silver choker (Bjørg, at Archives)
and metallic-leather clutch (Zilla)

Bonded-foil trench (Norma Kamali), leather bra (Zana Bayne), sequined trousers (Temperley London), embossed metallic-leather bag (Rebecca Minkoff), gold-plated cuff (DANNIJO) and patent-leather studded pumps (Christian Louboutin)





Sequined dress and leopard-print lamé blouse (Lanvin), embossed metallic-leather bag (Rebecca Minkoff) and 10-karat-gold earrings (Alexis Bittar)





Gold-tone polyamide 3-D flower embroidered dress
and palladium, rhinestone and pearl drop earrings
(Balenciaga) and PVC pumps (Christian Louboutin)

Silk and crystal mesh logo dress
(Versace), nine-karat-rose-gold and
black-spinel skeleton ring (Runa, at
Archives), crystal-encrusted ring (Alexis
Bittar), gold-plated earrings (DANNIJO)
and studded patent-leather cross-body
bag (Christian Louboutin)





Nylon and Lurex dress (Paula Knorr), gold-plated brass and cubic-zirconia earrings (Fallon) and studded patent-leather cross-body bag (Christian Louboutin). For details, see Shopping Guide. Model, Jenna Earle (Next Models); hair & makeup, Sabrina Rinaldi (P1M.ca); fashion assistants, Cherry Wang & Elissia Aycan; photographer's assistant, Darryl Block; digital technician, Ryan Francoz. *A special thank you to P1M (P1M.ca).*

Scar and
stretch mark
product most
recommended
by doctors.*



"Hi there, I have been struggling with my acne for many years now. Finally it has passed, but now I have severe acne scars. I saw an ad in a magazine about bio-oil and how a woman tried it on her face. I went to the drug store and got the small bio-oil and thought I would try it. The instructions say it takes a minimum of three months but this stuff is amazing! My acne scars are almost all gone now! I have honestly tried anything and everything to get rid of these acne scars and who knew this could be the cure. Thank you so much, I feel so much more confident than I have ever been before." Brenna Denexter

Bio-Oil® is a specialist skincare product formulated to help improve the appearance of scars, stretch marks and uneven skin tone. Its unique formulation, which contains the breakthrough ingredient PurCellin Oil™, is also highly effective for aging and dehydrated skin. For comprehensive product information and results of clinical trials, please visit bio-oil.com. Bio-Oil is available at drugstores and selected retailers. Individual results will vary.

*The Medical Post & Profession Santé 2015 Survey on OTC Counselling & Recommendations

ELLE BEAUTY

YOUR NEED-TO-KNOW COUNTERCULTURE GUIDE

ELIE SAAB



CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA

The party's just getting started.

EDITOR'S POV December inspires decadence, and Elie Saab's fall/winter 2015 couture show featuring gold lids and a matching gilded headpiece is as good an example as any. But luxurious living shows up in places other than makeup and hair. For anyone who has ever had a weekend with nothing to do but "Netflix and chill" (#nojudgment), free, unscheduled time can be a great extravagance. This season, make sure to revel in one of life's best hedonistic pleasures: relaxation.

VANESSA CRAFT



Joe Fresh Eye Shadow in Gold Rush (\$6); Givenchy Dahlia Divin Eau de Toilette Spray (\$98 for 75 mL); Fresh Sugar Tinted Lip Treatment in Nude (\$26); Kérastase Paris Chronologiste Rinse-Out Pre-Shampoo (\$50). For details, see Shopping Guide.



LATEST & GREATEST

BEAUTY BUZZ

This month's new and noteworthy must-haves.



TIE ONE ON Holiday-hair pick: the crown braid. **Step 1.** Spritz texturizing spray on damp hair and rough-dry. We love Redken Braid Aid 03 (\$25) for volume and hold. **Step 2.** Starting at the side of your head, just below the ear, take a section of hair and divide it into three. Tilt your head to the side and braid the hair, picking up more strands as you go, over the crown until you reach the bottom of your other ear. Do a simple three-strand braid to the end and secure with a clear elastic. **Step 3.** Using bobby pins, pin the tail of the braid under the ear where it started. Celebrity hairstylist Roger Medina suggests criss-crossing the pins, with one facing up and one facing down, for maximum hold. **Step 4.** Take the edges of the braid and pull loosely; called "pancaking," this makes hair look thicker. **Step 5.** Set with hairspray, such as Balmain Hair Couture Session Spray Medium (\$31.25). **Step 6.** Find mistletoe ASAP.

"IN THE WINTER,
THE LIGHT OUTSIDE IS
DIFFERENT; IT'S MORE COOL
TONED, MORE BLUE. [OPT
FOR HIGHLIGHTERS] WITH
CHAMPAGNE, BEIGE AND GOLD
TONES TO GIVE YOUR SKIN A
NICE, SOFT, WARM GLOW."

—Maxime Poulin, international beauty artist (member of the Guerlain art team), on the art of highlighting in winter when the sun is weaker



ELLE ❤ LOVES

H&M's new beauty collection. With 700+ products, it promises to be as popular as its designer collabs and will probably fly out the door just as fast. Our picks: Eye Colour Palette (\$12.99) and Cream Lip Colour in Candy Apple (\$12.99).

THIS MONTH'S "CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT" LIST



Vanessa Craft,
beauty director

"Each night that I used this firming face cream, I had dreams of velvet cushions and cherubic babies. Upon wakening, I discovered that my soft skin was the inspiration. #feelingmyself" Clé de Peau Beauté Synactif Nighttime Moisturizer (\$350). For details, see Shopping Guide.



Carli Whitwell,
health & beauty editor

"As a sworn enemy of the early morning, I've perfected my makeup routine to take six minutes—and that includes putting on the kettle for tea. A dab of this two-in-one cream formula on cheeks and lips streamlines my a.m. even more." Bobbi Brown Pot Rouge for Lips and Cheeks in Powder Pink (\$34)



Victoria DiPlacido,
assistant beauty editor

"After using these glycolic-acid-infused wipes while on vacation, I returned to work to high praise from a fellow beauty editor, who said my skin looked brighter and more even-toned!" Dr. Dennis Gross Skincare Alpha Beta Universal Daily Peel (\$110 for 30 treatments)

COVERGIRL

easy breezy beautiful



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2015 BEAUTY
GRAND PRIX
BEAUTE 2015

LIPSTICK UNDER \$15



WILD FOR THE NIGHT

Up your eyeshadow game with a swipe of this golden topcoat. Yves Rocher Top Coat for Eye Makeup Fixing in Pearly Effect (\$15)

SHADOWS OF EVENTS Wear this velvety shadow alone or with a statement lip for a more-is-more look. Bobbi Brown Sequin Eyeshadow in Constellation (\$42)



NAILS OF NOTE Press pieces of foil onto nails when the polish is still tacky and then seal with a topcoat for instant glam (and the easiest way to do accent nails ever). Anna Sui Nail Art Foil in 02 (\$12)



GARDEN PARTY Cut through the scents of cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg this season with this floral mix of rose, peony and musk. Bottega Veneta Knot Eau Florale Eau de Parfum Spray (\$140 for 50 mL)

EDITORS' PICKS

LUST LIST

What we're coveting this month.

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

This finishing powder has light-reflecting technology, so your skin looks like it's glowing even if your entire extended family is in town. Guerlain Météorites Enchanted Snowflakes Light-Enhancing Powder (\$89)

DREAM ON Dab on this lipstick from the NARS collab with photographer Steven Klein to say "I'm over you" in every selfie—no words/emojis needed. NARS Steven Klein Killer Shine Lipstick in Redemption (\$36)

GLITTERAMA Whatever you're celebrating (holidays, time off work, an excuse to eat carbs), sequins make it feel like a party. Hard Candy Nail Lacquer in Celebrate Sequins (\$3.98). For details, see Shopping Guide.

COVERGIRL

easy breezy beautiful

COLORLICIOUS #335 TANTALIZE

Craving rich, satisfying lipcolor + lip butters?
We have your #! Find yours in delicious
Plums, Reds, Nudes and Pinks.
COVERGIRL.CA
#ColorMeCOVERGIRL



LIPSTICK UNDER \$15





ANNA SUI



ERMANNO SCERVINO

MARNI



MISSONI



Dior Sourcils Poudre Powder Eyebrow Pencil in Ash Blonde (\$33) has the finish of a powder but gives structure like a wax.

The brightening shimmer formula in Smashbox Brow Tech Highlight Stick in Bronze Shimmer (\$24) gives blond brows a subtle golden texture.



NINA RICCI



MOSCHINO



NOTE: Before you begin, pull up an image of Cara Delevingne on your phone to keep you focused and/or inspired.

TRY A TREND

BROW DOWN

How to create (or fake) the perfect eyebrow.

Maybe you missed all the brow-focused beauty looks that have been happening on the runway for the past, like, 900 seasons. That's fine. No one expects you to be an Insta follower for every trend you see. (Glitter lip tattoos, RIP.) But brows are a thing, and here's why: When they're well groomed and filled in, they complete any makeup look and give definition to the eyes and face even if you aren't wearing makeup. Here's what you need to succeed:

APPLICATION Start by brushing your brows up, says Lori Taylor Davis, global pro lead artist for Smashbox Cosmetics. Then "apply light layers and build colour by applying the product forward and backwards, which gives the brow a different texture and helps it to look natural, not coated or masky. Brush them up again and you're good!"

KEEP IT REAL Looking to fill in sparse brows? Seek out a cream-textured product instead of a powder-based one, which often leaves things looking a little too defined or painted on. Cream- or wax-textured products also help to boost volume because they build up on the hair, not on the skin underneath.

GET SHADY The colour you need is lighter than you think: Go a shade or two lighter than your natural hair colour to avoid Bert brows. Another way to keep it natural is to blend the product according to the natural fill of your eyebrow. Most brows are lighter at their start, get denser in the middle and then taper off lighter at the end.

STREAMLINE "The closer you bring your brows together, the slimmer that area is going to look," says Jared Bailey, global brow authority for Benefit Cosmetics. "If you want a slender-looking nose, bring those points a bit closer together." Do the same if you want to bring wider-set eyes closer together. □

Clinique Just Browsing Brush-On Styling Mousse in Light Brown (\$19) is great for thin brows that need pumping up.



YSL Couture Brow in Glazed Brown (\$50) has a buildable formula that adds volume and long-lasting definition. For details, see Shopping Guide.

Urban Decay Tinted Brow Tamer (\$24) comes in four shades, and its gel-like formula keeps hairs in place without leaving them sticky.

Benefit Brow Zings Brow Shaping Kit (\$42) contains tweezers, wax for shaping and a powder to shade any gaps.



JIL SANDER



GIORGIO ARMANI



Check out ELLE Canada beauty vlogger Marisa Roy's bold-brow how-to video at ELLECanada.com/beautyplaylist.

Nail the look with Wine Not and
explore more shades at sallyhansen.ca
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SOURCE: OWNERS OF PROFESSIONAL MANICURE, 1st QTR 2015

**Sally Hansen® #1 Nail Brand
in Canada***

Gleam Supreme

Red
My Lips

Wine Not

Raisin
The Bar

Guilty
Party

Dark
Huemoor

Rags to
Riches

SPARK A NEW FLAME

An iconic shade, three ways.

Photographs by Marc Philbert

HEARTS ARE GONNA BREAK

Keep hair loose and soft. (It's better for flicking around on the dance floor.) Pair with a statement coral eyeliner for a new approach to party makeup. Sequined dress (Versace)



FASHION
BEAUTY



THAT RED LIP, CLASSIC THING THAT YOU LIKE

The secret to sophistication lies in the red-lip and bare-eye combo. Go glossy for maximum impact, and layer on mascara for definition. Blouse (Lanvin)

RED ALERT



1. Revlon Ultimate All in One Mascara in Black (\$12). 2. Make Up For Ever Artist Shadow in Tomato (\$24). 3. Diorific Nail Vernis in Passion (\$33). 4. NYX Butter Gloss in Cherry Pie (\$8). 5. Essence Lipliner in Femme Fatale (\$2). 6. Elizabeth Arden Beautiful Color Moisturizing Lipstick in Red Door Red (\$32). 7. Kat Von D Studded Kiss Lipstick in Hellbent (\$26). For details, see Shopping Guide.



SHE'S WALKING ON FIRE

If blending in isn't your thing, rock a bright smoky eye to the party. Dress (Etro). Model, Laura Blokhina (Why Not Models); hair, Mickael Jauneau (Airport Agency); makeup, Carole Lasnier (B Agency); stylist, Rémi Meunier





COUPLE OF MODELS

When real-life loves Jasmine Tookes and Tobias Sorensen walked on-set for Calvin Klein's Eternity Now fragrance campaign, they noticed that the mood board—which sets a shoot's tone—was covered with their Instagrams. "We have so many," says Tookes, laughing, when asked to pick a favourite. There's Sorensen—and his six-pack—lifting her above his head; Sorensen's six-pack again—this time with Tookes on his shoulders on a beach; and then one of the most-liked photos on Tookes' account: the two lounging in bed together. (That one has inspired fan art: "People always write words on top of that photo," says Tookes. One that Sorensen remembers fondly: "Stop fooling around!") This latest iteration of the classic floral fragrance (rather appropriately) celebrates new love. "We didn't have to fake anything," says Sorensen, who instinctively put his arm around Tookes when the campaign was screened in Toronto late this summer. "The chemistry was there."

FRAGRANCE NEWS

LET US SPRAY

The perfumes to make nice with this month.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

4 REASONS WHY YOU NEED TO TRY A SOFT, AIRY SCENT THIS WINTER.

1. If your holiday season skews more Griswolds than Grimaldis, spritz on the newest fragrance in The Body Shop's Voyage Collection, Italian Summer Fig Eau de Toilette Spray (\$28 for 50 mL). A blend of fig, Tuscan rose, Italian bergamot, lemon and oakwood, this is an instant spraycation from reality. "It's like when you walk through small villages in Italy, there's the scent of figs but it's not too heavy," says perfumer Constance Georges-Picot of her inspiration for the fragrance.
2. **Giving back is just as important as smelling good.** All of the Voyage Collection perfumes are made with fair-trade alcohol from Ecuador that was distilled from organic sugar cane.
3. **Choices.** If Italian fig isn't your jam, the collection has a squad of globe-trotting sister fragrances, including eaux de toilette Japanese Cherry Blossom, Atlas Mountain Rose, Fijian Water Lotus and Indian Night Jasmine (all \$28 each for 50 mL).
4. **Winter layers don't just mean clothes.** Shower gel, lotion and mist are available for each of the fragrances. For details, see Shopping Guide.



GET GILDED

"Opulence used to mean 'special occasion,'" says Michael Kors, whose latest trio of fragrances, the Gold Collection, is an ode to everyday luxury. "That has totally changed—the rules are gone." A woman might wear white gold if she wakes up "feeling powerful," says the designer, rose gold if she's in a romantic mood or yellow gold when she feels like Naomi Campbell (that is, "completely glamorous"). She'll pick her fragrances the same way: based on desire and not destination. "It used to be if you had a sexy, lush fragrance, you'd say 'Oh, I'm wearing it on Friday night; I have a date,'" says Kors. "Now, why wouldn't you want to be glamorous even if you're going to the gym? We mix it up today. That's what keeps it modern." From left: Michael Kors 24K Brilliant Gold, Rose Radiant Gold and White Luminous Gold eau de parfum sprays (\$107 each for 100 mL). □



PURE ANTI-WRINKLE POWER.

REVOLUTIONARY SERUM PEARLS
WITH HIGHLY CONCENTRATED ENERGY
COENZYME Q10 TO REDUCE THE LOOK
OF FINE LINES AND WRINKLES.

NEW





JEM MITCHELL

HAIR TO THE THRONE

*The secret to come-closer hair?
The smell of your shampoo.* BY AMY VERNER

the first time I went backstage at Fashion Week was for the Paris haute-couture collections, but I could have been in my mother's marble bathroom in Toronto. Caught in a swirl of models, photographers and the instantly identifiable scent of L'Oréal Paris Elnett Satin Hairspray, I was transported away from the frantic hairstylists, with their arsenal of tins, back to the countless times I'd seen—and smelled—my mother mist her hair with the brassy aerosol canister during the final step of her toilette. I remembered the many beloved family trips to Europe (before Elnett was available in Canada), where it would be my mother's only non-negotiable purchase.

Name-dropped by fashion and film stars alike, Elnett has earned cult status thanks to its non-stick, long-lasting hold and chic female illustration on the elongated tin, nicknamed "the golden goddess." But the hairspray's true claim to fame is its scent—a bourgeois, powdery, perfumed smell with aldehydic notes. Though hard to describe, it often draws favourable comparisons to Chanel No. 5. It's a unique scent that stays with you.

A hair product that is inextricably linked to an enduring scent is something akin to the holy grail for beauty companies. Like me, I'm sure you've experienced the link between scent and memory via perfume, and you've probably also read accounts—whether as consumer research or a plot line in fiction—that back this up. Biology does too: The area of the brain in charge of processing our senses is also responsible, in part, for storing emotional memories.

This means that even more than performance, fragrance serves as an entry point to the products we use in our hair. "Teenage girls often go to school with their hair wet; their

shampoo is the way they perfume themselves," says Dawn Goldworm, a New York-based fragrance-industry expert who has created scents for perfume powerhouses like Coty and Avon. "Shampoo is a huge part of olfactory identification at that age, so when we, as adults, smell similar products, it brings us right back to high school."

Scent acts as a built-in word-of-mouth marketing tool. Someone tells you that your hair smells fantastic and you're apt to reply with the name of the product responsible. Think back to the last time you shopped for a new shampoo; chances are you discreetly lifted the cap to smell the contents. And when you experience a Proustian moment upon sniffing a commuter's Pantene-infused hair flick during an early-morning subway commute, you are simply connecting a pleasant scent with proper hygiene, says Goldworm. "The association is that your hair is clean, that it's fresh, that you've just showered. All of these things are positive reinforcements based on smell."

The association may seem arbitrary, but Adrian Corsin, director of hair-care development at L'Oréal Professionnel in Paris, says that consumer testing suggests that a floral-fruity combination is "the winning combo in terms of communicating both cleanliness and pleasure." Here, the reason may be a matter of conditioning (not to be confused with conditioner!). The scent of apple rates high in the perception of cleanliness and hygiene. Floral notes, on the whole, have come to connote sophistication. Consequently, explains Corsin, the floral-fruity template is pretty much the industry norm, particularly with shampoos. "It's quite difficult to propose something outside the realm of the floral-fruity code," he says. As a styling product, Elnett ▷

has an advantage over these constraints, adds Corsin. "You can be a bit more sophisticated and adventurous," he says. "Styling is 'fashion,' so you have less of a need to communicate a hygienic benefit."

Put another way, Pantene has remained a bestseller because it is familiar and inclusive, whereas such niche brands as Oribe and Moroccanoil have tapped into the notion that hair fragrances can telegraph a luxurious and seductive olfactory personality. When celebrity hairstylist Oribe decided to launch a line of namesake products in 2008, he enlisted one of the venerable French fragrance houses to develop a high-end harmony of citrus, floral and woody notes, resulting in what Jessica Friedman, vice-president of product development, calls a "strong part of the DNA and brand identity." The fact that women brag about using Oribe's dry texturizing spray in lieu of perfume explains, at least in part, why the brand introduced a "hair refresher" followed by two eaux de parfum (as in, for the skin) based on the hair line's scent.

Moroccanoil, which has a unique, instantly identifiable signature scent, is among the few brands that hold a registered fragrance trademark. Canadian co-founder Carmen Tal would not reveal any specific notes, aside from "a little musk here, a little floral there, a hint of spice," but says that the combined scent transports wearers to the Mediterranean. "Our goal was to capture the essences of the sand, the sea and the breeze," she explains via email, adding that the brand wanted to provide a sense of well-being as well as high performance with its hair products. The development of the scent has been so successful, she adds, that people can instantly recognize Moroccanoil products, thereby enhancing the brand identity. The brand now offers scented candles as well as body products.

Pantene, meanwhile, has taken its own version of a sensorial journey, subtly tweaking its scent to coincide with fragrance trends. Rolanda Wilkerson, a principal scientist with the brand, points out that the popular original

CARRIER JET Your hair carries scent better than skin—a benefit, because studies show that the longer the smell of your shampoo lasts, the more you think it's working. Dawn Goldworm, a fragrance-industry expert, says that hair is a vehicle for showing off scent, and Adrian Corsin, director of hair-care development for L'Oréal Professionnel, agrees: "When fragrance is sprayed in the hair, it always smells the same, whereas it reacts differently when sprayed on the skin."

formulation was much headier with jasmine in the '80s than it is today. Of course, back then, blockbuster scents (Poison, Opium) were unapologetically aggressive. If consumers don't notice the update, the brands have succeeded. "We design our scents to be memorable over time but with a consistency of the main notes," she says, citing blackberries, plums, violets, orchids and warm woods in descending order from top to base notes.

The notes used in hair products have changed over time for good reason, says veteran hairstylist Howard McLaren. The former creative director of Bumble and Bumble—who recently formed a collective with high-profile contemporaries Garren and Thom Priano called "R+Co"—points out that hair scents, like perfumes, are always evolving thanks largely to the functional components. Base ingredients today tend to be lighter so that the functional purpose of a hair fragrance—to mask the aerosol, wax or cleansing agents—is less critical than the visceral impact. And, of course, "it has to have that emotional content," says McLaren. When he cites his mother's Elnett as his most resonant hair-scent memory, the universality of the phenomenon jells. "The world doesn't need another shampoo. But [it] needs something to get excited about."

And hair care just so happens to be a category in which brand identity and personality identity blur to cast an elusive, enduring spell. "Maybe it's just me," says Friedman, "but when you lean in and get a whiff of someone's hair, it's such an intimate moment. You're getting a little secret of theirs. Sometimes you get that from skin; but with hair, it's almost a little romantic." □

I SNIFF MY HAIR BACK AND FORTH

The hair-product scents as memorable as your favourite perfume.



Oribe Côte d'Azur Eau de Parfum Spray (\$93 for 50 mL) was inspired by the beloved heady scent of Oribe hair products.



Elnett Satin Hairspray in Extra Strong Hold (\$15) is known as much for its unique aldehydic fragrance notes as for its long-lasting yet brushable hold.



The musky yet floral scent of the bestselling Moroccanoil Treatment (\$47) instantly conjures up sexy vacations in the sun.



Pantene Nature Fusion Moisturizing Shampoo (\$6) is a carefully curated, very successful floral-fruity combination.



R+Co Gemstone Color Shampoo (\$27) contains hibiscus extract and smells exotic and fresh. For details, see Shopping Guide.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

If you are feeling exhausted and in need of revitalization, you should consider a detox or cleanse. With Active Liver™ you have the tool to do this gently and on a daily basis.

Detox your body - every day!

Each day, our liver is working hard to remove waste products and toxins from processed foods, unclean air, water and even our own body. But as we get exposed to increasingly more toxins, the liver struggles to remove them all and starts storing them in our body fat. We quickly notice the results in our energy levels, in our lack of youthful appearance – and surprisingly, on our waistlines.

UNJUNKING YOUR BODY

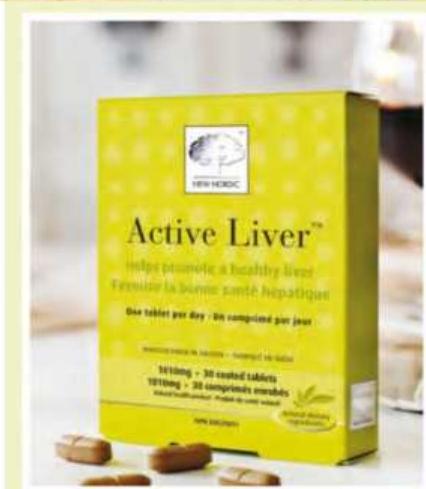
A detox, like a water or juice fast, is an excellent way to rid the body of stored toxins, but it is often difficult to abide by, and involves days or even weeks of feeling tired and sick. However, there are other ways.

TEST YOURSELF: Do you have a sluggish liver?

yes no

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Headaches or brain fog | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Difficulty losing weight | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Indigestion & burping after meal | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Fatigue | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Skin itching and brown spots | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Coated tongue | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Sensitive to strong smells | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Elevated triglycerides | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Does this sound like you? Then try Active Liver as a help to promote your liver health.



Active Liver™ is a natural health product that improves your liver's health and helps you detox on a daily basis – all year round. With just one tablet a day, it gently but effectively uses known herbal extracts to facilitate detoxing of the body – without the “side effects”.



THE LIVER AND YOUR WAISTLINE

The liver is an important fat burning organ. If the liver is sluggish or clogged with waste material it will be less able to work, and fat will start to build up, under the skin, as belly fat and even inside the internal organs (as in a fatty liver). Making sure your liver is working well will help you flush fats from the body.

Active Liver™ contains milk thistle, an herb known for protecting the liver and reducing heavy metal toxicity. It also contains turmeric, a superfood and one of the most anti-inflammatory and protective antioxidants known. Finally, Active Liver contains globe artichoke, a plant used for centuries for increasing bile production. Bile is used to bind and flush toxins and fats from the body.



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newnordic.ca



Fresh Beauty
Cocoa Exfoliating
Body Soap (\$19);
Fresh Beauty
Cocoa Body
Exfoliant (\$54).
For details, see
Shopping Guide.

SWEET CREAMS

The irresistible attraction to skincare that has a sugary side. BY VANESSA CRAFT

When I was in my teens, my beauty routine was an ode to early-onset diabetes. I had cookie-scented body lotion, shampoo that smelled like grape bubble gum and enough chocolate-flavoured lipgloss to last until retirement. My tastes have evolved; I no longer smell like a box of sugar cereal. Now, most of my favourite moisturizers, lipsticks and skin creams are unscented or unisex in tone—that is, until winter rolls around. Then I suddenly find myself reverting back to childhood, finding solace in dessert-inspired delights.

The recent change in the weather sent me straight to our beauty closet for a seasonal switch.

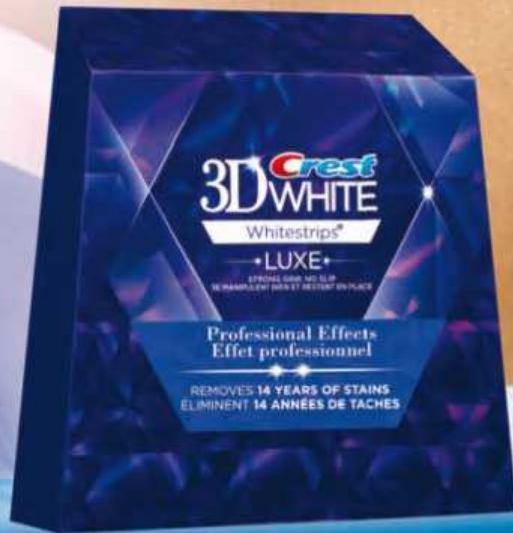
M.A.C lipsticks, which are all scented with vanilla, are my go-to for day or evening. The Too Faced Chocolate Soleil Matte Bronzer that smells like fudge? It has a new home: my face. And then I discovered the motherlode: Fresh Beauty Cocoa Body Exfoliant, a skin-smoothing, antioxidant-rich body scrub containing cocoa and coconut shells that looks—and smells—like chocolate-cake batter.

It's not the first time that Fresh founders Lev Glazman and Alina Roytberg have gone gourmand when creating skincare and body products. The late '90s saw the launch of their trail-blazing Sugar collection, which was inspired by childhood memories of their respective grandmothers, who used the sweet stuff as a natural antiseptic to heal cuts and scratches. The cult favourite Crème Ancienne Honey Mask is made up of nearly 40-percent honey—2½ tablespoons' worth in each jar. (Honey is a moisture-retaining humectant with natural enzymes that gently exfoliate the skin.)

My fascination with Fresh's dessert-like cocoa scrub isn't completely unfounded. Studies have shown that cocoa is an ingredient with major mood-boosting effects, so I have science to justify my lifelong chocolate connection. Glazman calls the endorphins released when we ingest cocoa "pleasure molecules," which are otherwise known as beta-endorphins. "It gives you a sense of well-being," he says. "When you have a bite of chocolate, it's not just the flavour you love; it's the effect it has on you." □



14
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CASHMERE SWEAT(ER)

The rich-girl uniform gets a sporty spin this season. These luxe layers won't be as breathable as your Dri-FIT, so save them for yin-yoga class or a post-workout green-juice run. Better yet, wear them 24-7 and pretend like you just came from the gym. We love the new sportswear line Kit and Ace (the brainchild of JJ Wilson, son of Lululemon founder Chip, and Shannon, former head Lululemon designer and Chip's wife). The ace up its sleeve? Technical Cashmere: a soft yet durable blend you can throw in the wash. Bates Bra, Kit and Ace (\$48, [kitandace.com](#))

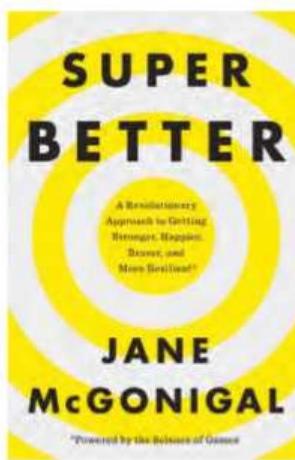
BODY NEWS

JOIN THE CLUB

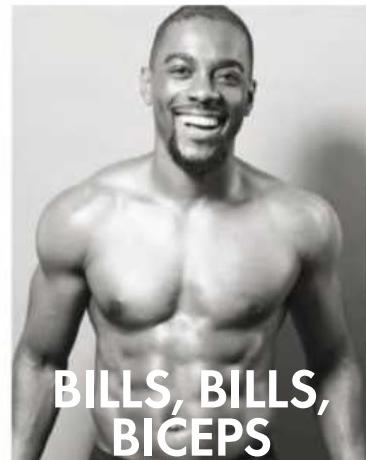
High-flying health and fitness inspo.

"PEOPLE WHO THINK OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE PRIMARILY AS A WAY TO HAVE FUN ARE MUCH LESS LIKELY TO 'REWARD' THEMSELVES WITH FOOD LATER. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY ALREADY FEEL REWARDED BY THE EXCITEMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ITSELF."

—Jane McGonigal, author of *Superbetter*, explaining the motivating power of thinking about life—including working out!—as a game



FAT PHAT WATER Fats used to be a diet faux pas, but the good kinds are now the FROW of any meal. Enter FATwater, a 20-calorie energy drink. Invisible particles of a type of fat—in science-speak, medium-chain triglycerides—mixed into water give the body pep, says creator Dave Asprey, who also founded butter- and fat-rich Bulletproof Coffee. The reason: This type of fat hits the express lane to the liver, where it converts to energy. However, Laura Vermander, registered dietitian at Cleveland Clinic Canada, says that this energy source, known as ketones, is an inferior alternative to glucose and only used when there's not enough glucose in the body. We tried it: The flavour is strong but not discouragingly so; just try not to think about the bobbing fat particles (\$5, at [bulletproof.com](#) as of January 2016).



BILLS, BILLS, BICEPS

Personal trainer Fabrice "le Physique"—his nickname from his modelling days—works with everyone from celebs to CEOs in his London, England, gym. The cost of one session: up to \$2,000. So what makes a million-dollar body? We break it down. **60:** The average number of seconds devoted to each move in Fabrice's high-intensity interval training (HIT) routine. HIT is a combination of cardio and weight training followed by a short rest; the body continues to burn calories for a few hours after the workout, which is known as "excess post-exercise oxygen consumption."

8: The number of muscle groups Fabrice tries to engage in one exercise, which he says leads to faster results. Try weighted squats: Squat until you are parallel to the floor. When you stand up, squeeze glutes, quads and hamstrings. **60:** The percentage of your max load (the weight you can barely finish one rep with) to use for weight training. Try not to count reps. Instead, do as many as you can until you get tired.

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JANETTE EWAN AND
LISA GUIMOND



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EDITORS'
ON-BOARD
ESSENTIALS
HOW TO FEEL
LIKE A HIGH
FLYER, EVEN
IF YOU'RE
SITTING IN
ECONOMY.



THE ULTIMATE UPGRADE

Fly high with first-class style.

EDITOR'S POV From dresses with departure-board prints to sandals with strips of landing lights, Chanel's spring/summer '16 collection was ready to take flight—direct from a Parisian fashion runway/departure lounge (at Gate No. 5, of course). The sleek set and posh "model" travellers don't exactly bring to mind my latest journey through airport security (that's a good thing!), but they certainly inspire me to elevate my own travel style. If only real-life flight attendants provided quilted blankets and eye masks...

CHRISTINA REYNOLDS

2.
Editor-in-chief
Noreen
Flanagan
never travels
without a
hydrating
face mist.

3.
Executive
editor
Christina
Reynolds
wears noise-
blocking
headphones
to cancel out
cabin
sounds.

ELLE ESCAPE

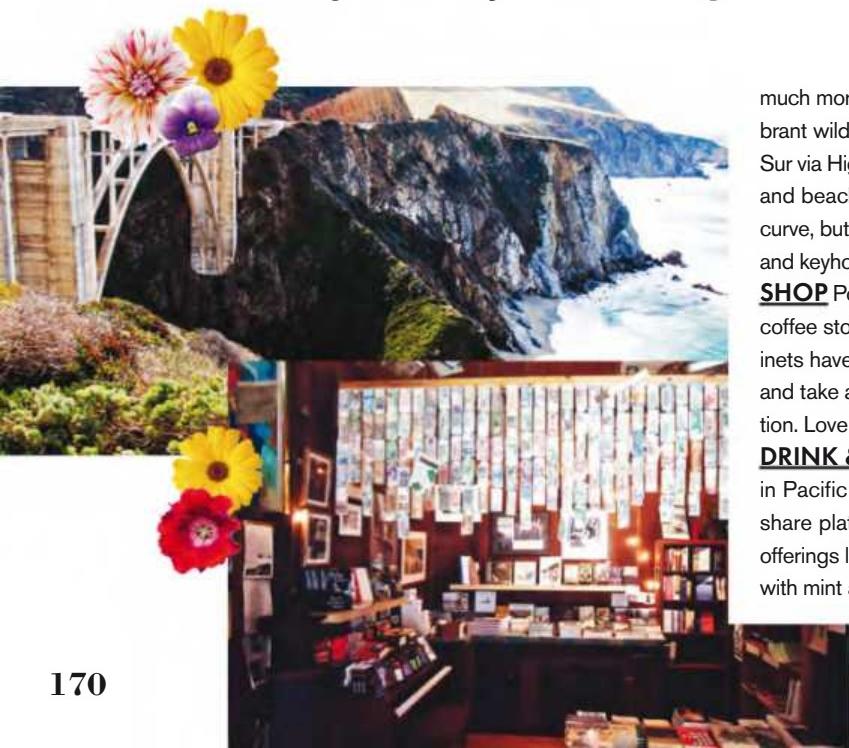
From top, far right:
Casanova Restaurant;
a view from Julia Pfeiffer
Burns State Park; La
Playa Carmel by
the Sea; Big Sur's
Bixby Creek Bridge;
the Henry Miller
Memorial Library



HOT & COLD

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Would you rather soak up the sun in Carmel-by-the-Sea or frolic in the snow in Quebec City? It's a tough call.



CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA ALWAYS SUMMER

"You have to nuke it or grill it—naked, with no butter," says Pat Hopper, my Artichoke Festival guide, as she instructs me on how to transform the thistle into a "buttery smooth" treat. On any given weekend in Monterey County, Calif., you're sure to come across some kind of deliciously luxe seasonal food festival showcasing everything from strawberries to garlic in all kinds of enticing ways—even (artichoke!) ice cream. Get a better taste of the area by making La Playa Carmel by the Sea your home base. The boutique hotel is a 110-year-old former private family mansion—ask for a room with both garden and ocean views, and be sure to hit the trifecta of made-to-order breakfast bars: omelettes, waffles and Bloody Marys.

WALK Carmel Beach is just a short stroll from La Playa. Let your toes sink into the fine white sand while you chat with locals who have the ultimate luxury of living across the street from the waves.

LUNCH Book the Vincent Van Gogh table (transported from an inn in France where the painter used to eat) at the rustic, romantic Casanova Restaurant in Carmel. Order the pot of shellfish with herbs and garlic, and keep an eye out for celebs like Clint Eastwood (who has his own restaurant nearby).

DRIVE Pebble Beach's 17 Mile Drive, which winds along the jaw-droppingly-lovely coast and through the misty Del Monte Forest, is just a 15-minute drive from Carmel. Give yourself lots of time—there's

much more to see here than just the iconic Lone Cypress (like vibrant wildflowers clinging to the cliffs). Keep driving south to Big Sur via Highway 1 for another 140 kilometres of lookouts, bridges and beaches to explore. You'll want to pull over at almost every curve, but save time for Pfeiffer Beach. Its patches of purple sand and keyhole arch set in the surf are stunning.

SHOP Pop in to peruse the Henry Miller Memorial Library, a quirky coffee stop/outdoor concert venue/book shop where some cabinets have signs like "Dear Beautiful Person, Please open me up and take a look. I am a lonely cabinet and crave attention & affection. Love The Cabinet & My Fellow Books."

DRINK & DINE Book a late meal at Jeninni Kitchen + Wine Bar in Pacific Grove. Chef Jeffrey Weiss' Southern Mediterranean share plates will make it almost impossible to decide between offerings like octopus with lemon *mermelada* and lamb meatballs with mint and muhammara.

CHRISTINA REYNOLDS

GETTY IMAGES (FLOWERS, SNOWFLAKES, QUEBEC CITY & QUARTIER PETIT CHAMPLAIN); COURTESY OF MONTEREY.COM (JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK & BIXBY CREEK BRIDGE)



QUEBEC CITY

A WINTER'S TALE

"We love winter here!" one very enthusiastic local said to me as I huddled by a cozy fireplace at Quebec City's historic Auberge Saint-Antoine. One look outside proves that the Québécois know how to do winter right: People are cross-country skiing along the grand boulevards, ice-skating at Place D'Youville and even canoeing along the partially frozen St. Lawrence River. If you absolutely must go inside, the 95-room Relais & Châteaux boutique hotel is the beating heart of the Old Port, one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. Sip the signature hot chocolate (a mix of local artisan chocolate and pure cream) on one of the lobby's sheepskin-clad banquettes to warm up before you head back into the snow.

PLAY Carnaval de Québec—which started back in 1894—celebrates the very best that a Quebec City winter has to offer, from outdoor sports to dining and dancing. From January 29 until February 14, you can fill your Thermos with Caribou, Carnaval's signature cocktail (a concoction of vodka, brandy, Canadian sherry and Canadian port), and take in everything from ultra-competitive (and icy!) canoe races to the famed snow sculptures.

SHOP Tucked beneath the cliffs that run along the St. Lawrence River, Quartier Petit Champlain is home to a kitschy mix of art galleries, artisanal shops and authentic bistro. Must-buys: handmade moccasins at Amimoc, miniature vintage cars at Tabagie Casse-Cou and maple syrup at La Petite Cabane à Sucre de Québec (a.k.a. the Sugar Shack!).

EAT At Panache, Auberge Saint-Antoine's restaurant, you can take in the post-and-beam architecture while savouring chef Louis Pacquelin's local menu. (Think game and trout paired with winter squash and sweet cabbage salad.)

DRINK You'll find some of the best Québécois wines at Le Tournebroche, the brainchild of French chef Stéphane Roth and restaurateur Guy Collin (both head up the top-rated restaurant Le Patriarche). The bar and restaurant serve dozens of local wines and microbrews—and the house-made brew pairs perfectly with the rotisserie chicken.

EXPLORE Further proving the region's love of all things snow and ice, the 44-room Hôtel de Glace (or Ice Hotel) has become one of Quebec City's most beloved attractions since it opened on New Year's Day in 2001. It's built from scratch every December. (Last year's theme was Space-Time; this year's will be announced on December 8.) Past highlights have included a chapel, a café, a bar and even a spa.

ALIYAH SHAMSHER □



From top:
The Quebec
City skyline;
Bonhomme
Carnaval;
Auberge Saint-
Antoine's
Panache
restaurant;
Quartier Petit
Champlain;
Carnaval's
ice castle; the
Hôtel de Glace



BALMAIN



A CANADIAN IN PARIS Ugh. It's 7 a.m. on a Monday morning in Paris, and I can't get away with hitting the snooze button again. It has been a hectic few days of racing to Paris Fashion Week venues non-stop, from the Bois de Boulogne to the Palais de Tokyo to the old Crédit Lyonnais building and everywhere in between. Today promises to be another busy one, and the last thing I want to do is get dressed to schlep out the door for a baguette and café au lait. So I don't! I just shuffle out to the kitchenette here in my little Airbnb studio in the heart of Le Marais, knowing the bread from yesterday afternoon is still good, there is Fauchon orange marmalade in the fridge and the Keurig coffee machine is primed and ready to go with a pod of—what else?—French roast.

Hotels, with their anonymity and luxe turn-down service, are nice. But while a basic room at a three-star hotel probably costs three times

what I'm paying here, I realize it's not so much about the savings; it's about getting a chance to immerse myself in a neighbourhood. "It's a great way to meet interesting people from all over the world," Leandro Alves, my Airbnb host, told me when I arrived. "Everyone has a story behind why they've

come to Paris. If you have any questions while you're here, please call me." We exchanged WhatsApp info, and he was off.

The apartment is small, yes, but it's comfortable and has homey touches you wouldn't get at a luxe property—let alone a Best Western—and it's only \$200 a night. It looks exactly the way it appeared in the photos, and the bathroom is actually even posher than I thought. The windows open over rue Geoffroy l'Angevin, a small street that runs between rue du Temple and rue du Beaubourg. The bakers at the aptly named Pain Vin Fromages restaurant two stories below are obviously at work already. I am steps from Centre Pompidou, and the *comptoirs* of rue Rambuteau are so close that I can almost smell the Pont-l'Évêque cheese.

Despite Airbnb's growing popularity—47 million guest visits and counting since it launched seven years ago—there's still an air of equal parts start-up and outlaw associated with it. I stayed at another Airbnb place last season in Milan and it was terrific, but those who haven't tried the DIY-rental service often ask me if I feel safe being in a stranger's home rather than a hotel. Fair question, and it's why it's important to read all the posted comments about your host. Leandro's were stellar, so I wasn't worried. "We want to create an experience for a guest who wishes to have an authentic experience in Paris," he told me when we first exchanged emails to arrange the booking. Mission accomplished.

NOREEN FLANAGAN



MAXTREE (RUNWAY)

NUMBER GAMES

34,000

The number of cities, in 190 countries, that Airbnb has properties in.

33,000

The number of hosts in Canada.

47,000

The number of guests who stayed at Airbnb properties around the world in 2010.

2008

The year Joe Gebbia and Brian Chesky decided to rent out three air beds in their living room in San Francisco and cook their guests breakfast for \$80. They set up a website, airbedandbreakfast.com, and six days later they had booked three guests. Afterwards, the pair decided to build on the idea, and the rest, as they say, is history.



THE ITALIAN JOB When I was planning my first trip to Milan for Fashion Week, I knew I wanted to immerse myself in the city's glamorous and storied culture. And although I'm familiar with New York, Paris and London, I knew very little about the fourth fashion capital (pizza and Prada aside). The first part of my adventure was at a posh hotel in the city's northeast end—it was gilded and luxe but surrounded by busy parkways that were best suited to car service, not cobblestone cruising. So, for the latter half of my week-long stay, I wanted to counter that with an experience that would let me walk as much as possible. (The city is not known for having an impressive transit system, and taxis can be tricky to procure.) I decided to try Airbnb, which allowed me to control my search options according to price, amenities and neighbourhood. Piazza del Duomo, where many fashion events are held, is beautiful, but it's a very touristy part of town. (Hey, why fly all the way to Milan to stay next to a Zara?) Instead, I was drawn to the lively Brera area, which is known for its winding streets bursting with local boutiques, cafés and restaurants. (And it's also a short walk from the Duomo.) Eventually, I settled on a listing called Luxury B&B Antica Brera, a two-bedroom apartment ensconced in a stunning palazzo, for \$373 a night. *Sì, grazie!*

KATHERINE FLEMMING



Katherine multi-tasked breakfast and blogging at this dining table.

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME AIRBNB RENTERS **1. Vet the 'hood.** Ask friends who live in the city or research online to find the neighbourhood that suits your interests. **2. Read reviews.** Treat the reviews section on the website like your Airbnb bible. **3. Use your first interaction with the host as a barometer.** Did he or she respond to your inquiry promptly and answer all your questions? **4. Check for built-in bonuses.** Some locations offer free Wi-Fi, breakfast, laundry and housekeeping. **5. Filters are your friends.** Use the filters—from price to location to amenities—to help you narrow down the listings. **6. Look for the watermark.** If you see the Airbnb logo in the corner of the photos, this means a company rep came by to take them, so they're more likely to be accurate representations. **7. Mind your manners.** Just like with Uber, hosts are welcome to rate their experience with you. (And you won't be privy to that review until you craft a review for them.) **8. Check the cancellation policies.** They vary from property to property. **9. Post an honest review.** After your stay, do your fellow Airbnb guests a good turn by sharing the good, the bad and the ugly about your experience. N.F. □

HIDDEN GEMS

Afghan artisans collab with a Canadian designer on a vibrant handcrafted collection.

BY CHRISTINA REYNOLDS



STUDIO SESSION Designer Kara Hamilton (centre) with Turquoise Mountain business development officer Ramzia Sarwari (left) and artisan Nasrin Alimi in the Gowharshad jewellery workshop in Kabul, Afghanistan. Gowharshad, which means "joyful jewel," is one of 30 businesses Turquoise Mountain helps support by providing space, electricity and advice.

thanks to a recent trip to Afghanistan, Toronto-based jewellery designer Kara Hamilton has deepened her understanding of "handmade." Her previous starting point with "raw materials" was machine-made wire. But in August, she visited Kabul's Turquoise Mountain, a trust founded in 2006 to preserve and teach traditional Afghan crafts. While working with recent graduates of the non-profit's Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture, she learned that the jewellery artisans "hand-pull" metal wires and then crimp them into intricate chains—"they physically yank the metal through a tiny hole to reach a desired thickness and then pull it for miles and miles," says Hamilton. But even before that, the artisans melt down the raw metals using alchemy techniques. "Because of variations in the artisans' source materials, their bronze is very gold in colour," she says of the Afghan metal mix used for the resulting collaboration.

Hedvig Alexander, of Toronto-based Far & Wide Collective, brought the designer and the artisans together. As the founder of the two-and-a-half-year-old social enterprise, she thought that the project was a perfect way to further her fair-trade business'

objective of connecting artisans in emerging economies to the international market. (All Far & Wide revenues are reinvested into these efforts.)

"We are committed to working with artisans who don't yet have a market to sell their goods," says Alexander of the four small businesses that she chose to work on this collection. Each is made up of recent Turquoise Mountain Institute graduates operating out of the institute's business incubator—and she has given three of the four businesses their inaugural order. Far & Wide already carries lattice-wood trays and jewellery by Turquoise Mountain—Alexander ran the organization for two years during the seven years she lived in Afghanistan—but this is the first time it has undertaken a designed-from-scratch jewellery collaboration.

"It's hard for a relatively new jeweller to make a prototype for a complicated piece, and there has been a learning curve on our side too," says Alexander, who had to wait through several rounds of designs before she could price the 12-item collection. Hamilton, likewise, had to learn how to work with lapis lazuli, a semi-precious stone that is mined in Afghanistan. The artisans advised her that the ultramarine stones can break easily if they are not secured in a metal setting, so they adjusted the designs. And the artisans, who Hamilton says were crafting pieces so precisely that they almost looked machine made, got a lesson in the art of perfectly imperfect design. "There were a couple of times I intervened in the hand-making process and said 'Wait, stop' because I wanted to see their hand touches in the pieces," she says. "We had to find a balance between consistency and an understanding that what makes a piece unique is seeing someone's fingerprints in it."

This was the first time three of the four businesses had ever worked with an outside designer, says Maryam

Omar, Turquoise Mountain's sales and design officer, who acts as a liaison for international designers and clients. Omar, who returned to Kabul in 2012 after studying at the London College of Fashion, helps everyone communicate, literally and figuratively translating design sketches and assessing quality control. "There were some misinterpretations as we worked," she tells me via a Skype call. "But it was a very good learning experience to make prototypes."

"It is very challenging to work in Afghanistan," continues Omar, citing outside factors like limited international shipping options as just one example. "These orders have provided not only jobs for these artisans but also great training for these very young businesses where many [of the owners and employees] are women. Jewellery making is one of the sectors that women feel comfortable working in as it is culturally acceptable."

Back in Toronto, Hamilton now thinks of the project and her trip to Afghanistan as a "justification for why I do what I do," she says. "I know instinctively that craft and art and design are essential parts of life. But that became so much clearer to me when I was there—seeing that there is this currency to beauty, really." This is something that Alexander fundamentally understands too. Earlier this year, she launched [artisantoolkit.org](#), a free illustrated business-training manual to help Afghan artisans. And she's already planning Far & Wide's next collab with Turquoise Mountain and another Canadian jewellery designer, Jenny Bird. "It's so interesting, because Kara's initial drawings are so far from what we ended up with," says Alexander. "Afghanistan has a cool factor to it and a beauty that you don't necessarily see. The final collection has a bit of a rough edge, but that reflects what it is—the design conversation throughout the process took it where it was supposed to go." □



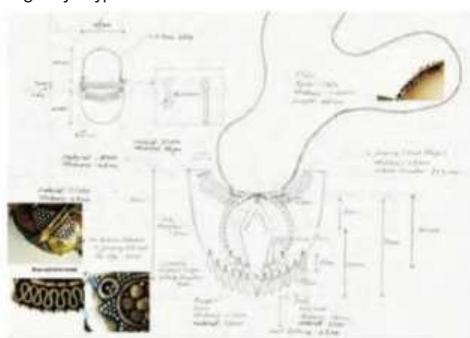
AFGHAN STYLE Turquoise Mountain is located in the Murad Khani district of Kabul's old city, which was damaged during the Afghan Civil War. The non-profit has restored 112 buildings in the area, including Great Sarai (above), one of its home bases.

SOUNDS RIGHT For the collection's long necklace (right), Hamilton took inspiration from jewellery worn by Afghan nomads. "I love the very fine clinking sound that traditional pieces make, so we hammered our pieces thin to create a very light 'twinkle' sound too."



HAND WORK Artisan Nazila Jabari (above) in her Gowharshad jewellery workshop, where she employs Alimi and three other female artisans. Her business produces the chokers, rings and some bracelets for this collection.

DESIGN EVOLUTION This is one of Hamilton's early sketches for the lapis-lazuli plate necklace (below). "We made a significant number of simplifications to the designs as we went along—it was really a hands-on collaboration," says Hamilton, who regularly Skyped and emailed with the artisans.



ELLE HOROSCOPE

by Georgia Nicols

sagittarius

(NOV. 22 – DEC. 21)

With the Sun in your sign now, it's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. You will attract people and favourable circumstances. Nevertheless, diplomacy with a friend will be necessary because some kind of standoff may take place. The ripple effect reaches romance, vacation plans or your relationship with kids.

capricorn

(DEC. 22 – JAN. 19)

You'll enjoy schmoozing with others this month, but you'll be going behind the scenes a lot too. However, relations with a boss, a parent or an authority figure will get to the point where you insist on making a stand. From your perspective, you are striking a blow for freedom. It's necessary to do this now because, in many ways, you're moving on.

aquarius

(JAN. 20 – FEB. 18)

Enjoy increased popularity this month. Relations with bosses and authority figures are also cozy, even to the point of romance. However, travel plans may be interrupted or cancelled. Likewise, arguments with others about politics or religion might arise. Don't let this temporary dark cloud dampen your spirits.

pisces

(FEB. 19 – MARCH 20)

You are high-viz this month, and people admire you. Use this to your advantage if you want to push your own agenda. However, disputes regarding shared property, inheritances and debt will require your understanding and empathy. Fortunately, relations with close friends and partners have never been more supportive. Try to travel for pleasure.

aries

(MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)

This month, two strong influences are at play—and one might feed the other. You want freedom! You yearn to get away from it all, especially through travel. But this drive for independence could trigger problems with authority figures, spouses or partners. It's important for you to expand your boundaries, but tread carefully.

taurus

(APRIL 20 – MAY 20)

A power struggle (perhaps in the areas of publishing, medicine or the law) will occur at the beginning of the month. This might be why you're focused on shared property, budgets, inheritances, debt and responsibilities to others. Something unexpected will happen at work, but one thing is certain: You want to call the shots.

gemini

(MAY 21 – JUNE 20)

Surprises and upsets with kids, sports, vacations and romantic partnerships are likely. You need patience dealing with others because, in truth, you're tired. You need more sleep now because the Sun, your source of energy, is as far away from your sign as it gets all year. Catch some extra zees. Fortunately, work flows swimmingly.

cancer

(JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

You're busy! Which is why you're doing everything in your power to be productive. This is no surprise, since you're dealing with chaos and crazy activity at home; but you can handle it, along with conflicts with partners and authority figures. Your fun-loving attitude and positive style of communicating will save the day.

leo

(JULY 23 – AUG. 22)

The last month of the year is such a playful time for you! Go out in full dazzle to enjoy social events, parties, romantic dates and playful times with young people. Life on the home front is good, and you're redecorating. (Love it.) Be tolerant and patient with siblings and relatives because creative change, surprises and even revolt are in the air.

virgo

(AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22)

The demands of this month make you want to cocoon at home. And that's fine; in fact, it's wise. Home and family are a strong focus, and daily interactions with siblings are warm and supportive. But be prepared for something unusual with your job, earnings or cash flow. Guard against impulsive purchases you might later regret.

libra

(SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22)

This is a busy month. Short trips, errands and conversations as well as increased reading and writing make demands on your time. Fortunately, with fiery Mars in your sign, you're bursting with energy. However, power struggles with partners and close friends are likely. Use your Libran charm and diplomacy to smooth troubled waters.

scorpio

(OCT. 23 – NOV. 21)

This month is all about money, earnings, cash flow and your values—not surprising, given the time of year. Plus, with Venus in your sign, it's the perfect time to buy wardrobe treasures for yourself. However, something behind the scenes will cause change. No worries. By nature, you are strong and organized—you can handle this. □





Alexis Bittar alexisbittar.com. **Altuzarra** altuzarra.com. **Anna Sui** annasui.com; at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Archives** (416) 922-2229. **Balenciaga** balenciaga.com. **Balmain Hair Couture** balmainhair.com. **Benefit** At Sephora, sephora.ca; Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca; Murale, murale.ca. **Bjørg** At Archives, (416) 922-2229. **Bobbi Brown** bobbibrown.ca. **Bottega Veneta** At Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com; Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Burberry Beauty** burberry.com; at Sephora, sephora.ca; Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Calvin Klein** At Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca; Jean Coutu, jeancoutu.com. **Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Collection** caroletanenbaum.com. **Chanel** chanel.com. **Christian Louboutin** christianlouboutin.com. **Clé de Peau Beauté** At select Holt Renfrew locations, holtrenfrew.com. **Clinique** At Clinique counters, clinique.ca. **DANNIJO** dannijo.com. **Dior** At Dior beauty counters; Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Dolce & Gabbana** dolcegabbana.it. **Dr. Dennis Gross Skincare** At Sephora, sephora.ca. **Dries Van Noten** www.driesvannoten.be. **Elizabeth Arden** At drugstores and mass-market retailers. **Elnett** At lorealparis.ca; drugstores and mass-market retailers. **Erdem** erdem.com. **Essence** At Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca. **Etro** etro.com. **Fallon** fallonjewelry.com. **Fresh Beauty** At Sephora, sephora.ca. **Givenchy** At Sephora, sephora.ca. **Gucci** gucci.com. **Guerlain** At Guerlain boutiques. **H&M Beauty** At select H&M locations, hm.com. **Hard Candy** At drugstores

and mass-market retailers. **I Still Love You NYC** islynyc.com. **Jennifer Fisher** jenniferfisherjewelry.com. **Joe Fresh** joefresh.com. **Kat Von D** At Sephora, sephora.ca. **Kérastase** kerastase.ca. **Lanvin** lanvin.com. **Make Up For Ever** At Sephora, sephora.ca. **Marchesa** marchesa.com. **Marc Jacobs** marcjacobs.com. **Mary Katrantzou** marykatrantzou.com. **Michael Kors** At Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Miu Miu** miumiu.com. **Moroccanoil** moroccanoil.com. **Moschino** At shopbop.com. **Mugler** muglerusa.com. **NARS** At NARS counters, narscosmetics.com; Sephora, sephora.ca; Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. **Norma Kamali** normakamali.com. **NYX** At drugstores and mass-market retailers. **Oribe** At Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com. **Pantene** At drugstores and mass-market retailers. **Paula Knorr** paulaknorr.de. **Preen Line** preenbythorntonbregazzi.com. **R+Co** At spacenk.com. **Rebecca Minkoff** rebeccaminkoff.com. **Redken** redken.ca. **Revlon** At drugstores and mass-market retailers. **Rita Tésolin** ritatesolin.com. **Smashbox** At Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca; Murale, murale.ca; Nordstrom, nordstrom.ca; Sephora, sephora.ca. **Temperley London** temperleylondon.com. **The Body Shop** thebodyshop.ca. **Urban Decay** At Sephora, sephora.ca; Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca. **Versace** versace.com. **YSL** At YSL counters; Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com; Sephora, sephora.ca. **Yves Rocher** yvesrocher.com. **Zana Bayne** zanabayne.com. **Zilla** At Archives, (416) 922-2229. □

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CRYSTAL METHOD

Ever wondered what happens when fashion fantasies come to life? This fall, Iris van Herpen teamed up with Noritaka Tatehana to create a 21st-century version of Cinderella's glass slipper, complete with 3-D printing and laser-cut leather detailing.



Which #OTT shoes are you coveting this season? Tweet us @ **ELLECanada** with **#fashionplay**.

24 HR freshness that
POPS
AROUND THE
CLOCK



Like any household detergent, keep away from children.



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